TOWN OF
WAKEFIELD

ANNUAL TOWN REPORT | 2025

211TH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TOWN OFFICERS OF THE TOWN OF WAKEFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Including the vital statistics for the year ending December 31, 2025.

TOWN OF
WAKEFIELD

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TOWN OF WAKEFIELD

Population 2024 Census: 24,244
2020 Federal Census: 25,944
Councilor, 6th District: Terrence W. Kennedy of Lynnfield
U.S. Representative for Mass. 6th Congressional District: Seth Moulton
Representative 9th Essex District: Donald H. Wong
Representative 32nd Middlesex District: Kate Lipper-Garabedian
Senator, Fifth Middlesex District: Jason Lewis

TOWN OFFICIALS

***Town Council**
Douglas S. Butler (2027)
Mehreen N. Butt (2026)
John F. Carney (2027)
Jonathan P. Chines (2028)
Stacey Constas (2028)
John Crisley (2028)
Brian Fox (2026)

****Town Administrator**
Denise Y. Casey

Assistant Town Administrator/Financial Officer
Kevin Gill

Chief Administrative Officer
Sherri A. Dalton

Chief of Fire
Thomas M. Purcell

Chief of Police
Steven A. Skory

Communications
Jennifer McDonald

Community and Economic Development
Erin Kokinda

Electrical Inspector
David J. Sardella

Emergency Management
Thomas P. Walsh

Inspector of Animals
Beverly Milward / Kevin Nichols

Inspector of Buildings
Benjamin DeChristoforo

Parking Clerk
Kenneth J. Stache

Plumbing /Gas Inspector
Paul J. Donohoe

***Tax Collector**
Kathleen M. Kelly (2027)

Town Accountant
Elizabeth Rourke

Town Assessor
Victor P. Santaniello

***Town Clerk**
Betsy Sheeran (2026)

Town Counsel
Thomas A. Mullen

***Town Moderator**
William Harbison Carroll (2026)

Town Planner
Marissa Meaney

***Treasurer**
Edward F. Dombroski, Jr. (2028)

Veterans Agent
David Mangan

****Advisory Board of Public Works**
Elena Proakis-Ellis (2028)
Shane McCarthy (2026)
Christopher Tarr (2027)

****Arts Council**
Rumiana Bardarova (2027)
Lori Dupuis (2027)
Beatrice Flammia (2026)
Diana Kennedy (2026)
Jessica Sutich (2026)
Gaetano Zagami (2028)

***Board of Assessors**
Brian Donegan (2028)
David Ledonne (2026)
Sebastian P. Tine (2027)

***Board of Health**
Candace Linehan (2026)
Marcy McCauley (2027)
Elaine M. Silva (2028)

***Board of Library Trustees**
Christopher Barrett (2028)
Daniel C. Calore (2027)
Laura Cutone Godwin (2026)
Aimee Lominac (2027)
Jeffrey Quinn (2028)
Adam Rodgers (2026)
Karen Sadler (2028)
Scott Staiti (2027)
Susan Wetmore (2026)

****Board of Registrars**
Kathleen M. Beaulieu
Wesley A. Beckett
Barry D. Noyes

****Bylaw Review Committee**
Katherine Howitt
Daniel P. Lieber
Joseph Pride
Eric Reid
Kevin York

****Cable Advisory Committee**
Daniel P. Lieber (2027)
Shane McCarthy (2027)
Eric Reid (2026)

****Capital Planning Committee**
Daniel Calore (2026)
Tracey Cleversey (2026)
Frank Conte (2027)
Samuel Hockenbury (2028)
Shane McCarthy (2027)
Garrett Murphy (2027)
Philip Renzi (2028)

****Commission on Disabilities**
Daniel L. Benjamin, Jr. (2026)
Lois Jarema Benjamin (2026)
Lorna J. Davidson-Connelly (2028)
Janice Mirabassi (2027)
Paul Paglierani (2026)
Marie Rej (2027)
Judith Tanner (2028)
Paula Thompson (2028)
Charles Tuttle (2027)

***Conservation Commission**
Eleanor Axelrod (2027)
Jennifer Fanning (2028)
Paul F. Wendelgass (2028)

***Constables**
Lisa A. Butler (2026)
Christian K. Lopes (2028)
Kevin J. Lopes (2027)

****Council on Aging**
Julie Brown (2026)
Richard Greif (2028)
Maureen Hickey (2027)
Susan Jepson (2028)
Jim Morin (2026)
Sherri Oken (2028)
Carol Plotkin (2027)

****Economic Development Council**
Christopher Barrett (2026)
Daniel Benjamin (2028)
Ann Hadley (2027)
Ally Houghton (2026)
Julianne Orsino (2026)
Tanya Walker (2028)

****Environmental Sustainability Committee**
Joseph Conway, Department of Public Works Representative
John Crisley, Town Council Representative
Melissa Eusden (2027)
Tommy Frohlichstein (2028)
Lillian Guinther (2027)
Stephen Ingalls, School Committee Representative
Jennifer L. Kallay, Municipal Gas and Light Department Representative
Rebecca Nuernberger (2028)
Christina Olivieri (2026)
Steffin Spears (2026)
Tiana Veldwisch (2028)

****Fence Viewing Committee**
Shaun Santos (2027)
John Sofia (2028)
Paul Torraca (2026)

****Finance Committee**
Edward Bean (2027)
Joseph Bertrand (2028)
William J. Boodry, Jr. (2027)
Stefan Chase (2027)
Brian Cusack (2028)
Aimee Forsythe (2026)
Dennis Hogan (2027)
Tarae Howell (2026)
Christian Jensen (2026)
Evan Kenney (2027)
Donald Ravenelle (2026)
Daniel W. Sherman (2028)
James Sullivan (2028)
Lorri Wheeler (2026)
Ellie Zuccaro (2028)

****Historical Commission**
Daniel L. Benjamin, Jr. (2028)
Nancy L. Bertrand (2026)
Marc DiBella (2027)
Therese Frazier (2026)

***Housing Authority**
Karen H. DeJoie (2029)
Nancy Dillon, Tenant Representative (2030)
Joseph Dorney, Gubernatorial Appointee (2027)
Sarah Fowler (2027)
Charles Geier (2026)

****Housing Production Plan Advisory Committee**
Alex Guarino
Samuel Hockenbury
Karen McMaster
John T. Saeger
Donald Valerio
Douglas S. Butler, Town Council Representative
Jonathan P. Chines, Town Council Representative
Lorna J. Davison-Connelly, Commission on Disabilities Representative
Karen H. DeJoie, Housing Authority Representative
Theodore H. Noell, Planning Board Representative
Carol Plotkin, Council on Aging Representative
Gail Severt, Housing Trust Representative

****Housing Trust**
William J. Boodry, Jr., Finance Committee Representative (2026)
Stacey Constas, Town Council Representative (2026)
Sarah Fowler, Housing Authority Representative (2027)
Maureen Hickey, Council on Aging Representative (2026)
Marie Rej, Commission on Disabilities Representative (2027)
Gail Severt (2027)
Kevin York, Planning Board Representative (2027)

****Human Rights Commission**
Kathleen Shine Cain (2028)
Jillian Dyment (2026)
Hyon Leon (2027)
Jessica Sutich (2026)
Sonia Bhardwaj-Patel (2026)
Ericca Sadler (2027)
Denise Y. Casey, Ex Officio
Stacey Constas, Town Council Liaison
Pete Davis, School Committee Liaison
Amy Rando, Police Department Liaison
Steven Skory, Ex Officio
Glavia Smith, Representative Designee for Superintendent of Schools

***Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational School**
Brittany Carisella (2028)

****Permanent Building Committee**
Joseph B. Bertrand (2027)
Jason Cohen (2026)
Erin Demerjian (2028)
Wayne Hardacker (2026)
John McDonald (2027)
Marc Moccio (2028)
Philip Renzi (2028)
Charles L. Tarbell (2028)

***Planning Board**
James Hogan (2027)
Theodore H. Noell (2026)
William L. Spaulding (2029)
Kristin Maria Weekley (2030)
Kevin York (2028)

****Recreation Commission**
Gerald E. Barrett (2026)
Robert Burnett (2028)
Charles Ciccone (2027)
Dan D'Ademo (2028)
Christine M. Gargano (2027)

Julie Grillon (2028)
Susan Hickey (2026)
Richard Stevens (2026)
Michelle Yu (2027)

Retirement Board
**Sherri A. Dalton
**Kevin Gill, Ex Officio
*Erin Kokinda (2028)
*Scott Morrison (2027)
**Daniel W. Sherman (2026)

***School Committee**
Peter Davis (2026)
Kevin Fontanella (2028)
Stephen Ingalls (2027)
Thomas F. Markham III (2028)
Alexander Naumann (2028)
Kevin Piskadlo (2026)
Melissa Quinn (2027)

****Sweetser Lecture Advisory Committee**
David Miller

****Traffic Advisory Committee**
Joseph Anderson, Police Representative
Daniel L. Benjamin, Jr., Resident Representative
Lois Jarema Benjamin, Commission on Disabilities Representative
Denise Y. Casey, Town Administrator
Joseph Conway, Department of Public Works Director
Matt Kealey, VHB Engineer
Kathleen Tuhy, Resident Representative (2028)
William Renault, Town Engineer

****Veteran Advisory Board**
Daniel L. Benjamin, Jr. (2028)
Paul Cancelliere (2026)
Peter Constantine (2028)
Joseph Dellolio (2027)
Marion Dennehy (2028)
Dale Findlay (2026)
Joseph Giacobbe (2027)

****WCAT Working Group**
Aimee Forsythe, Finance Committee Representative
Brian McCoubrey
Paul Norman
Shane McCarthy, Cable Advisory Committee Representative
David Watts

Denise Y. Casey, Town Administrator
John Crisley, Town Council Representative
Elizabeth Rourke, Town Accountant

***Wakefield Municipal Gas and Light Commission**
Thomas Boettcher (2028)
Sharon Squillace Daly (2028)
Jennifer Kallay (2027)
Elton Prifti (2027)
John J. Warchol (2026)

****Youth Council**
Emilly Aiolff, High School Member (2026)
Nathaniel Chines, High School Member (2026)
Parker Hamlin, Middle School Member (2026)
Nico Moody, High School Member (2026)
Madeline Naper, High School Member (2026)
Sofia Panighetti, High School Member (2026)
Ellie Pritchard, High School Member (2026)
Olivia Wall, High School Member (2026)

****Zoning Board of Appeals**
David W. Hatfield (2026)
Kasumi Humphries (2028)
Thomas Lucey (2026)
Joseph Pride (2028)
Charles L. Tarbell, Jr. (2027)
Kristin Brown, Associate Member (2027)
Mitasvil Patel, Associate Member (2028)

*Elected **Appointed

HOW VOTING IS DONE IN WAKEFIELD

Voter Registration
Local Elections
Town Meeting

Prepared by the Town Clerk and the League of Women Voters of Wakefield.

Voter Registration
To register to vote in Wakefield you must be:

- An American citizen native-born or naturalized
- At least eighteen years old on the date of the election
- A resident of Wakefield, Massachusetts

When and where to register:

- Online at www.mass.gov/vote
- Mondays through Thursdays 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Fridays 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and during any extra hours scheduled by the Board of Registrars; see local newspapers and Town's website for times.
- Town Clerk's office, Town Hall, One Lafayette Street, or in any other city or town in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; your registration will be forwarded to the Wakefield Town Clerk for inclusion on local voting lists.
- You may also request a mail-in registration form.

Deadlines for registration:

- To vote in state or presidential primaries or state elections, you must register to vote at least twenty days before the election.
- To vote in the local elections or to vote at Annual Town Meeting, you must register to vote at least twenty days prior to the election.
- To vote at a Special Town Meeting, you must register at least 10 days prior to the meeting.

More about registration:
Registration is permanent unless a voter moves to a new city or town. However, failure to respond to the Annual Census may result in being dropped from the active list of Registered Voters. A voter, moving from one precinct to another with the Town, should immediately notify the Registrars of the changes to assure being able to vote in the new precinct. Otherwise, s/he must vote in his/her former address.

Registrations are administered by the Board of Registrars, which has four members, two from each of the top two political committees in Town. One is the elected Town Clerk who serves as Clerk of the Board. The other three are citizens, nominated by the appropriate political committee, appointed by the Town Council, and serving three-year terms.

Local Elections:
Polling place: Galvin Middle School, 525 Main Street.
Local elections are held annually on the fourth Tuesday in April and are non-partisan. Write-ins are permitted and absentee voting is allowed.

To become a candidate for local office, a citizen must:

- Be a registered voter in Wakefield, Massachusetts.
- Obtain nomination papers from the Town Clerk (one set of papers for each office sought in the election).
- Obtain the signatures of fifty citizens who are registered to vote in Wakefield.
- Submit nomination papers to the Board of Registrars forty-nine days prior to the town election for certification of the signatures.
- File nomination papers with the Town Clerk by 5 p.m. on the thirty-fifth day before the town election. This places the candidate's name officially on the ballot.

To join a political party:
A citizen may choose to declare his/her choice of political affiliation when he/she registers to vote, or may declare his/her party choice when voting in primary elections. If a voter chooses not to declare his/her party, he/she will be listed as an "unenrolled voter" on voting lists.

How to be a delegate to a state or national convention:
Each town political committee has the information on how any party member can be a delegate to a State or National Party Convention. A party member is eligible to be a delegate to his/her party conventions; delegates are chosen every four years on the presidential primary ballot.

Town Meeting
Procedure at Town Meeting is set forth in the Town Charter.

The Town Meeting Warrant is a collection of articles presented by departments, committees, and voters for consideration at an Annual or Special Town Meeting. The warrant is composed by the Town Administrator's office, with articles being entered by request or petition. Individual voters may have an article inserted by petition. The Town Council receives all petitions for the warrant. Signatures of ten or more registered voters are required on articles for Annual Town Meetings; 100 signatures are required on articles filed by citizens in warrants for Special Town Meetings. Signatures on petitions must be substantially as the voters' names appear on the voting list. Voters may request the advice of the Town Counsel in drawing up an article.

Customarily, public announcements are made of the opening and closing dates of the warrant. Citizens, however, may take their petitions to the Town Council at any Board meeting during the year and the Town Council will hold such articles for insertion in the warrant for the next Town Meeting. Department managers enter their articles by the process of request.

Annual Report
The Annual Report is comprised of reports from all Town departments, including operating expenses and statistical information. The Annual Report is compiled by the Town Administrator's office, and copies are available free prior to the Annual Town Meeting.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Reports of:
Town Council
Town Administrator
Assessing Department
Planning Board
Conservation Commission
Zoning Board of Appeals
Recreation Department
Cable TV Advisory Committee
Environmental Sustainability Committee

REPORT OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

At the Town Council organizational meeting on April 28, 2025, following the Town Election on April 22, 2025, Mehreen N. Butt was voted in as Chair and Jonathan P. Chines was voted in as Vice-Chair. The Council welcomed new members Stacey Constas and John Crisley. Edward F. Dombroski, Jr. was elected as the Town Treasurer on April 22, 2025, leaving his seat vacant on the Town Council. At the Special Election on June 24, 2025, Brian Fox was elected to fill Dombroski's unexpired term. The Town Council meets on the second and fourth Mondays of the month.

The powers, duties, and responsibilities of the Town Council are enumerated in hundreds of sections of law applying directly to Town Councils. The broadly diversified powers, duties, and responsibilities of the Town Council affect the functioning of all Town departments, and central coordination is essential to an effective and efficient municipal administration.

The Town continues to function under the Open Town Meeting - Town Council - Town Administrator - Town Charter model. The Charter grants the Town Administrator the responsibility for daily management of the Town's business; provides for the election by the voters of a seven-member Town Council, a Town Moderator, a Tax Collector, a Town Clerk, a Town Treasurer, a seven-member School Committee, a five-member Planning Board, and a Housing Authority; provides for strengthened financial procedures; requires a Department of Public Works with an Advisory Board of Public Works; provides flexibility to reorganize Town agencies in the future; and provides a referendum procedure by which Town Meeting votes on certain Warrant Articles may be reconsidered by the voters in a referendum election.

The necessity for effective liaison and representation between the Town and State government has become increasingly important as locally uncontrollable costs are transferred and made part of the cost of Town government. While continuing to meet the expectations and responsibilities placed on the council by the Town Charter and bylaws, the Council moved forward on a number of projects aimed at the betterment of the Town of Wakefield. Throughout the year, the Council continued to record hybrid-style meetings. This allowed resident participation from home, with recordings published for anytime access. The Council also sought resident input through public hearings.

In 2025, the Wakefield Town Council continued its work to advance strategic planning, sound fiscal management, infrastructure improvements, community services, and economic development, all while engaging residents in transparent and productive local governance.

Fiscal Stewardship and Budget Oversight
The Town Council successfully approved the Fiscal Year 2026 operating budgets, including municipal and Town administrative spending. This included thoughtful investment in key municipal needs while maintaining balanced fiscal priorities.

The Council also approved the Town's capital budget, allocating nearly $2.2 million toward priorities such as new vehicles for Police, Fire, Public Works, and the Senior Center; field improvements at local schools; and upgrades to Town buildings.

Councilors authorized bond financing and debt management actions, including issuance of bond anticipation notes and prudent transfers into the Debt Services Capital Needs Account.

Infrastructure and Public Works Enhancements

- Water system investment: approved a zero-interest water bond of $1.3 million with the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority to support ongoing water main replacements.
- Intersection and traffic improvements: advanced redesigned configurations, such as the Oak/Green/Greenwood intersection, to improve pedestrian safety and flow and move projects closer to construction in 2026.
- Utility coordination and public access improvements: advanced through Council action on utility pole relocations that support roadway modifications.

Long-Range Planning and Community Projects

- Downtown Revitalization: ongoing support and updates on the Envision Wakefield Downtown Revitalization initiative, including design phases and public input, demonstrated the Council's commitment to enhancing the Main Street and Water Street streetscapes for residents and visitors.
- Rail Trail Progress: the Wakefield-Lynnfield Rail Trail continued to move forward with planning, design, and state funding support, positioning the project for future construction phases that will create a multi-use pathway connecting Wakefield with neighboring communities.

Economic Development and Housing

- The Council acted on development proposals that integrate public benefits, including conditional authorization for improvements around 200 Quannapowitt Parkway, that will enhance contiguity with publicly accessible park land.
- Affordable Housing: the Council's engagement with the Affordable Housing Trust and support of rental assistance programs provided targeted resources for residents in need.

Community Engagement and Licensing

- Wakefield held its annual tax classification hearing, set tax policy, and approved licenses across entertainment, restaurant, liquor, and other business categories, supporting local commerce in 2026.
- Multiple appointments were made to committees essential to Town planning, traffic advisory functions, and economic development boards, reinforcing resident participation in local governance.

Public Service and Recognition

- The Council honored public servants and community contributors, including recognizing the retirements of Town Administrator Stephen P. Maio and long-serving Fire Chief Michael Sullivan, and celebrated community organizations such as Wakefield Community Access TV and The Scholarship Foundation of Wakefield.
- At the August 1, 2025, Town Council meeting, members voted 6-1 to appoint Denise Y. Casey as the Town Administrator, subject to an employment contract negotiation. Douglas S. Butler voted against the appointment.

Policy and Governance

- Councilors reviewed and refined municipal policies, such as the Town's flag-flying policy, ensuring that Wakefield's practices reflect community values and inclusivity.
- Efforts across zoning bylaw clarification and public hearing referrals strengthened the legal framework for future development and planning decisions.

Looking Forward

The Wakefield Town Council enters 2026 with a strong foundation of fiscal stability, infrastructure momentum, and community engagement. Continued focus on strategic investments, including water system upgrades, trail and downtown improvements, and housing support positions Wakefield for sustained growth and quality of life enhancements for all residents.

The Town Council wishes to express its sincere gratitude to the many volunteers who diligently serve on a variety of boards, committees, and commissions. We also extend our thanks to our dedicated employees, our valued residents, and our thriving business community, all of whom contribute significantly to making Wakefield the exceptional town it is today.

Members of the Town Council include Douglas S. Butler; Mehreen N. Butt; John P. Carney; Jonathan P. Chines; Stacey Constas; John Crisley; and Brian Fox. Sherri A. Dalton serves as the Town Council Clerk.

REPORT OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

It is my pleasure to present this report summarizing the activities, accomplishments, and initiatives undertaken by the Office of the Town Administrator during calendar year 2025.

Throughout 2025, the Town continued to focus on responsible financial stewardship, enhancement of municipal services, infrastructure investment, and organizational effectiveness. Working collaboratively with the Town Council, municipal staff, boards, committees, and community stakeholders, the Administration remained committed to delivering high-quality services while ensuring transparency and accountability in local government operations.

Financial Management and Budget Development
During 2025, the Administration worked closely with department leaders to develop and implement fiscally responsible operating and capital budgets that reflect the priorities of the Town Council and the needs of the Wakefield community. Emphasis remained on:

- Maintaining long-term financial stability;
- Supporting core municipal services;
- Funding capital improvements; and
- Addressing rising operational costs.

The Town continued its commitment to prudent financial planning through multi-year forecasting, ongoing monitoring of departmental expenditures, and evaluation of revenue trends. These efforts were instrumental in ensuring the Town's ability to meet service demands while remaining mindful of the financial impact on residents and businesses.

Capital Planning and Infrastructure
Infrastructure investment remained a priority in 2025. The Administration worked in coordination with the Capital Planning Committee and municipal departments to advance capital projects aimed at maintaining and improving Town facilities, public safety equipment, roadways, and other critical infrastructure.

Continued evaluation of facility needs and equipment-replacement schedules helped guide capital funding decisions to ensure the long-term sustainability of municipal assets.

Organizational Operations
The Administration continued to support departmental operations through recruitment efforts, onboarding of new personnel, and organizational planning. Efforts were made to ensure departments were appropriately staffed and equipped to meet service expectations while maintaining operational efficiency.

Interdepartmental collaboration remained a key focus throughout the year, allowing for improved coordination in project planning, service delivery, and administrative functions.

Policy Implementation and Administrative Initiatives
In 2025, the Office of the Town Administrator worked to implement policies and initiatives adopted by the Town Council. Administrative efforts included:

- Supporting Town Council goals and priorities;
- Enhancing internal processes and procedures;
- Strengthening communication between departments; and
- Ensuring compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

The Administration also continued to evaluate opportunities to improve municipal operations through technology, process improvements, and best practices in local government management.

Community Engagement
Maintaining open communication with residents, business owners, and community organizations remained an important component of the Administration's work in 2025. Public meetings, community discussions, and ongoing engagement with stakeholders provided valuable input that helped inform decision-making and policy development.

Acknowledgments
In the months since October 2025 when I was appointed Town Administrator, I have enjoyed meeting community members, attending events, and working with staff. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the Town Council, department leaders, municipal employees, board and committee members, volunteers, and the Wakefield community whose commitment and professionalism contribute daily to the success of the Town of Wakefield.

Denise Y. Casey
Town Administrator

Town Administrator's office includes Denise Y. Casey, Town Administrator, and Sherri A. Dalton, Chief Administrative Officer.

REPORT OF THE ASSESSING DEPARTMENT

The mission of the Wakefield Assessment Department is to provide fiscal stability by promptly, fairly, and equitably determining the valuation of all real and personal property located in the Town of Wakefield. The Assessment Department is obligated under law to assess all property at its full and fair market value as of January 1 of each year for the purpose of taxation. This is accomplished through the maintenance and administration of all property tax data records. In addition, the department administers motor vehicle excise tax; real, personal, and motor vehicle excise tax abatements; and all statutory tax exemptions as allowed by law.

Our staff is comprised of an elected three-person board and three full-time employees. The Board of Assessors includes David Ledonne, Chair; Sebastian Tine, MMA, Vice-Chair; and Brian Donegan, Esq. Board Member. Office staff are Victor P. Santaniello, MMA, Director of Assessments; Scott Morrison, MAA, Assistant Assessor; and Kirsten Evans, Principal Office Assistant.

During 2025, the major activities undertaken by the Assessor's office include:

- Provided online access to our property record database.
- Conducted a state-mandated yearly property revaluation Town-wide.
- Reviewed and adjusted properties to reflect updated market conditions.
- Completed online listing of assessor maps.
- Maintained and updated all real estate and personal property tax records.
- Implemented the Wakefield Senior Discount Program.

Special projects and future goals of the Assessment Department include:

- Manage ongoing state-mandated data recollection effort.
- Continue to review and update neighborhood valuation designations.
- Continue the ongoing sales verification questionnaire mailing program.
- Implement new and efficient office policies and procedures as required.
- Maintain supplemental assessment program as required by state law.
- Update existing tax maps.
- Make select state tax forms available online.
- Increase public awareness relative to assessing and exemptions.

Fiscal Year 2025 Tax Rate Summary	
Total amount to be raised	$143,818,855.13
Total estimated receipts	$48,767,511
Residential Tax Rate: $11.35	**Commercial Tax Rate: $21.76**
Real property valuation	$7,439,355,914
Personal property valuation	$206,132,780
Total valuation of taxable property	$7,645,488,694
Total real estate tax	$90,565,894.84
Total personal property tax	$4,485,449.29
Tax levy	$95,051,344.13

Fiscal Year 2025 Recap Summary				
Property Class	Levy Percentage	Valuation by Class	Tax Rates	Levy by Class
Residential	80.69%	$6,801,853,038	11.35	$76,693,832.26
Exempt	-	-	-	-
Open Space	0.00%			
Commercial	12.26%	$535,705,976	21.76	$11,656,962.04
Exempt	-	-	-	-
Industrial	2.33%	$101,796,900	21.76	$2,215,100.54
Subtotal	95.28%	$7,439,355,914	-	$90,565,894.84
Personal	4.72%	$206,132,780	21.76	$4,485,449.29
Total	**100.00%**	**$7,645,488,694**	**-**	**$95,051,344.13**

Fiscal Year 2025 Minimum Residential Factor Computation		
Class	Full and Fair Cash Value	Percentage Share
1. Residential	$6,801,853,038	88.97%
2. Open Space	0	0.00%
3. Commercial	$535,705,976	7.01%
4. Industrial	$101,796,900	1.33%
5. Personal Property	$206,132,780	2.70%
Totals	$7,645,488,694	100.00%
Maximum Share of Levy CIP Classes 3, 4, and 5	1.75 x 11.0344 =	19.3102% Maximum percent share
Minimum Share of Levy for Classes 1 and 2	100% - 19.8994 =	80.6898% Maximum percent share
Minimum Residential Factor (MRF)		0.906978

Fiscal Year 2025 Assessment/Classification Report					
Property Type	Parcel Count	Class 1 Residential Value	Class 3 Commercial Value	Class 4 Industrial Value	Class 5 Personal Prop. Value
101	6,264	$4,904,240,000			
102	1,505	$761,146,300			
Misc.103,109	1	$695,300			
104	691	$565,915,800			
105	131	$115,428,400			
111 - 125	107	$378,568,200			
130-132,106	255	$20,952,800			
300 - 393	307		$502,649,425		
400 - 452	91			$100,985,200	
Ch.61 Land					
Ch.61A Land					
Ch.61B Land	2		$721,889		
012 - 043	74	$54,906,238	$32,334,662	$811,700	
501	299				$9,259,110
502	343				$23,605,470
503					
504,550-552	4				$152,778,900
505	6				$17,992,600
508	3				$2,496,700
Totals	10,083	$6,801,853,038	$535,705,976	$101,796,900	$206,132,780
Real and Personal Property Total Value: $7,645,488,694					
Total Value of All Exempt Property (462): $461,575,700					

Local Expenditures	
Total appropriations	$139,632,115.90
Other local expenditures	$1,000,000
Snow and ice deficit / Overlay deficits	$0.00
Allowance for abatements and exemptions	$565,936.23
Total state and county charges	$2,544,299
Total cherry sheet offsets	$76,504
Total of appropriations and expenditures	$143,818,855.13

Estimated Receipts and Available Funds	
State cherry sheet estimates	$13,837,016
MA School Building Authority	$0.00
Local estimated receipts	$10,713,933
Enterprise funds	$18,054,084
Free cash	$1,055,753
Other available funds and WMGLD	$1,141,725
Offset receipts	$115,000
Total:	$48,767,500

Betterments, Special Assessments, and Liens	
Category	Total Committed Amounts by Category
Light Liens	$1,403.68
Sewer Liens	$260,120.09
Water Liens	$186,504.16
Title V Sewer Upgrade	$0.00
Sewer Betterments	$3,066.33
Street & Sidewalk Betterments	$11,063.47
Water Betterments	$0.00
Total Committed	$4,445.06
Motor Vehicle Excise (Comm. 1-6): 27,684 Bills, $5,380,138.84	

Statutory Exemptions		
Clause	FY 2024	FY 2025
Deferral 5 – 41A	$75,875.63	$13,930.75
Elderly 5 – 41	$62,000	$100,000
All Veterans and Surviving Spouses 5 – 22 (a-f)	$162,224	$281,822
Surviving Spouses 17D	$1,925	$3,850
Wakefield Senior Discount	$262,569 (245)	$503,868
Blind 5 - 37	$8,500	$18,000
Hardship 5 - 18	$0.00	$0.000

REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD

As established under M.G.L. Chapter 41, §81A, the Planning Board consists of an elected five-member body with the powers and duties to carry out the provisions of the subdivision control laws in the Town of Wakefield. The Board holds regularly scheduled meetings and public hearings on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. In some instances, the Board acts as a special permit granting authority, as defined in the Town's bylaws. The Board is responsible for preparing, adopting, and issuing a Master Plan.

In 2025, the Planning Board continued to host virtual meetings via Zoom with one meeting being held hybrid. The Planning Board met twenty-one times in this year.

Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Bylaw

This project was a top priority of the Planning Board in 2025 due to the enactment of the ADU regulations by the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities on February 2, 2025. These regulations were made possible by the enactment of the Affordable Homes Act (the "Act") by Governor Maura Healy on August 6, 2024. The Act allowed for the promulgation of regulations that created a statewide definition for ADUs and classified them as an "as of right" use in every city and town across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, thus superseding any local bylaws already in existence that are not compliant with the new State regulations.

Public hearings were held on April 8 and April 15, at which the Planning Board recommended that favorable action be taken on the corresponding article at Town Meeting.

The regulations were successfully adopted at Town Meeting on May 5, 2025, and were approved by the State on August 25, 2025.

Zoning Bylaw Recodification

Members Kevin York and Theo Noell continued to serve as liaisons to the Wakefield Bylaw Review Committee (WBRC) to assist and track the proposed changes to the Zoning Bylaw that would occur during the Zoning Bylaw Recodification. Liaisons and other Planning Board members attended WBRC committee meetings and proofed draft sections, advising the WBRC as it continued the recodification work.

Following an extensive review period by the WBRC, along with the assistance of Attorney Mark Bobrowski, a final draft of the newly recodified Wakefield Zoning Bylaw was presented to the Planning Board. The recodified Bylaw renumbers and reorganizes the various chapters, sections, and subsections into a structure that follows a more logical sequence.

The Planning Board held public hearings on October 14 and 28, 2025, following which they voted to recommend that favorable action be taken at Town Meeting. The Bylaw was successfully adopted at Town Meeting on November 8, 2026.

Other Zoning Bylaw Changes
Floodplain Overlay District: Updates were made to the regulations in the existing Floodplain District in order to maintain consistency with new regulations that were issued by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). New Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) were also produced by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), thus updating existing Floodplain District boundaries. The Planning Board, at its public hearing on April 8, 2025, voted to recommend favorable action be taken on these updates. These regulations were successfully adopted by a vote of Town Meeting on May 5, 2025.

Streets, Public Ways, and Conservation Land
On March 25, 2025, the Planning Board held a public hearing at which it voted to recommend that favorable action be taken at Town Meeting to, with respect to portions of the property at 200-400 Quannapowitt Parkway, accept an open space and conservation restriction, grant a public pedestrian easement, and enter a lease agreement that allows the Wakefield Police Department to establish a public safety office.

On April 8, 2025, the Planning Board held a public hearing at which it voted to recommend that favorable action be taken at Town Meeting to accept a public way on Farm Street, alter the existing right of way on Farm Street, and accept an easement to be granted to DCR.

On August 26, 2025, the Planning Board held a public hearing at which it voted unanimously to accept the street name change of Edgewater Place Drive to Edgewater Place.

Subdivision Reviews
Planning Board meetings were devoted to reviewing subdivisions under the Massachusetts Subdivision Control Law, M.G.L. Ch. 41, §81M: Definitive plan review for 154 and 158 Salem Street.

ANR ("Approval Not Required")
Under M.G.L. Ch. 41, §81P, the Planning Board is required to endorse plans for new lots that comply with the Town's zoning bylaws. These plans are known as 81P Plans or "approval not required" (ANR) plans.

In 2025, the Planning Board endorsed: 95 Prospect Street, 466 Water Street, and 66-68 Harrison Avenue.

Revision of Subdivision Rules and Regulations
Throughout the year, the Board continued to edit the subdivision rules and regulations to make them clearer and more consistent. This effort is ongoing and will continue into 2026.

Housing Production Plan
The Housing Production Plan was completed by the Town, with the assistance of consultant JM Goldson, in May 2025. It was adopted by the Planning Board on July 15, 2025, and was successfully approved by the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities on October 30, 2025.

Other Notable Activities
The Planning Board, from time to time, will review and submit formal letters and questions regarding items before the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Participation in several Community Planning Initiatives
Members of the Planning Board continue to participate in the Wakefield's Bike/Pedestrian Plan, the Safe Streets Working Group, and the Affordable Housing Trust.

Members of the Board include: Jim Hogan, Chair; Kevin York, Vice Chair; Theodore Noell; William L. Spaulding, and Kristin Weekley.

REPORT OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Wakefield Conservation Commission ("Commission") is responsible for the protection and preservation of Wakefield's natural resources through regulatory review, planning, advocacy, and education. Typically, this is accomplished through the implementation of the Conservation Commission Act (M.G.L. Ch. 40, sec. 8C), and the administration and enforcement of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act ("Act") (M.G.L c 131 § 40), with its corresponding regulations (310 CMR 10.00). In addition to their duties as administrators of the Act, the Commission is responsible for the planning, acquiring, and managing of open space.

In 2025, the Commission conducted twenty-three public meetings and reviewed nine Notice of Intent filings. Additionally, the Commission held five special meetings and two information sessions related to their work on drafting a Wetlands Bylaw. The review of these filings and their associated site visits provided an assessment of potential impacts to wetland values vital to the environment including: protection of public and private water supplies; protection of groundwater; flood control; storm damage prevention; pollution prevention; and protection of wildlife habitat. In addition to issuing nine Orders of Conditions, the Commission reviewed six Determinations of Applicability, and issued seven Certificates of Compliance. The Commission also reviewed sixteen tree removal requests.

All Commission permits consider stormwater management to ensure that new construction prevents flooding and discharges clean water to the ecosystem. With this, each permit contains a provision to enhance wildlife by requiring landscaping to be installed that provides food and cover for wildlife. In preparation for issuing permits, they verified resource area delineations, researched and proposed approaches to provide habitat and biodiversity, and oversaw compliance.

In September, the Commission hosted a table at Town Day on the Common where they spoke with many residents about conservation, open space, and wetlands, including their draft Wetlands Bylaw. The Commission also advertised their openings for new members to join. The purpose of this bylaw is to protect the wetlands, water resources, and contiguous land areas of the Town by controlling activities deemed to have a significant effect upon wetland values. In their outreach and discussion of this draft bylaw, the Commission made a presentation to the Planning Board about the benefits of a Wetland Bylaw, soliciting feedback on their current draft.

In addition, the Commission appointed one new steward to their Trail Steward Program. This volunteer program enlists the help of Wakefield residents to monitor the Town's trail systems.

The Commission said goodbye to three Commissioners: Frank J. Luciani, Jr., Kenneth Alepidis, and Haley McHatton Ballou. The Commission welcomed new member Jennifer Fanning. Members of the Commission include Eleanor Axelrod, Jennifer Fanning, and Paul Wendelgass.

REPORT OF THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Wakefield Zoning Board of Appeals, a quasi-judicial body with five members and three alternates appointed by the Town Council, operates under the Zoning Bylaws of the Town of Wakefield and under Chapter 40A of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
The Board has the following powers:

- To hear and decide appeals as a party aggrieved, for review of a decision made by the Building Inspector or other authority.
- To hear and decide applications for certain special permits.
- To hear and decide petitions for variances.
- To hear and make findings allowing the extension, reconstruction, or alteration of preexisting nonconforming structures or uses.

The Board deliberated on forty-nine new petitions during 2025. The petitions included requests for variances, special permits, findings and/or determinations. Major items before the Board included:

- Petition for a fast food restaurant: GC Tea Inc, 410 Main Street.
- Petition for a daycare: 607 North Avenue.
- Petition for a fast food restaurant, professional, and business office: Best Realty, 139 Albion Street.
- Petition for a daycare: 957-983 Main Street, 6 Greenwood Street.
- The ZBA rejected the 100-unit 40B proposal submitted by the Residences at Nahant Street, LLC. The developer appealed the Board's decision to the Housing Appeals Committee. Following several negotiation sessions, a settlement was reached in April 2025. As part of the settlement, the proposed development was reduced from 100 units to 60 units.
- Many findings and/or determinations were made to allow the razing and reconstruction of single- and two-family dwellings, wireless communication facilities upgrades, and accessory dwelling units (ADU). Many signs for business establishments were also approved.

Items currently before the Board include:

- Petition to construct a five-story self-storage facility at 50 Quannapowitt Parkway.
- Petition to construct an electric vehicle charging station at 525 Salem Street.

Thomas J. Lucey continued as Chair and Joseph Pride as Clerk. Other Board members are Charles L. Tarbell, Jr., David W. Hatfield, and Kasumi Humphries. Kirstin Brown serves as an alternate member, and the Board welcomed Mitasvil Patel. After six years of service, Michael L. Feeley retired, as did Greg Demerjian following two years of service. Gail Conroy retired as Secretary of the Board after serving seventeen years of dedicated service. Aimee Purcell was appointed as her replacement.

REPORT OF THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The primary function of the Wakefield Recreation Department is to expand and improve recreational opportunities for residents of all ages. The Recreation Department strives to provide fun, safe, quality, and affordable programming for all our participants.

Wakefield Recreation is the central permitting department and scheduler for the use of sports fields, parks, and tennis courts within the Town. It also provides oversight for the operation of the Americal Civic Center and the Albion Cultural Exchange.

Funds raised by the Department through field permitting are made available to the Department of Public Works and reinvested for field improvements and maintenance and are also invested in future Recreation Department programming and departmental needs.

The Wakefield Recreation Department is located on the first floor of the Americal Civic Center. The main responsibilities include scheduling the Drill Hall (gym) and Heritage Room (meeting space), tenant billing, serving as tenant liaison for the Town of Wakefield, developing comprehensive youth and adult programming, field scheduling, oversight of the Community Garden, and management of the Albion Cultural Exchange.

Wakefield Recreation continues to expand its programming options. Existing offerings like youth tennis lessons, SNL flag football, summer day programs, Warrior sports clinics with Wakefield Memorial High School coaches, and pickleball remained popular. New programs included youth entrepreneurship, tone and sculpt for adults, pickleball drill classes, a New York City day trip, youth tumbling, and a middle school volleyball team.

Wakefield Recreation continues to be a preferred destination for the ever-growing sport of pickleball. We offer a variety of indoor and outdoor lessons and provide great facilities in a fun and welcoming environment.

We look forward to providing the community with high quality programming again in 2026.

REPORT OF THE CABLE TV ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Cable television licenses in the Town are currently held by Comcast, RCN, and Verizon. One meeting was held in 2025, on February 19. Along with committee members, others present were: Ian McDermott, Brian McCoubrey, and Town Counsel Thomas Mullen.

Summary of discussions this year:

- Consistently declining pool of revenues for franchise fees
    - RCN has 336 subscribers
    - Verizon has 2859 subscribers
    - Comcast has 3245 subscribers
- License renewals for vendors and priorities were discussed with Town Counsel Mullen

Members: Daniel Lieber, Chair; Shane McCarty; and Eric Reid.

REPORT OF THE BYLAW REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Committee members were appointed by the Town Council in spring of 2022, consistent with the Wakefield Town Charter 7-5(b). There were eleven meetings held in 2025. Topics focused primarily on recodifying the zoning and land-use bylaws and confirming minor updates to the general bylaws. The Committee brought six articles to Town Meeting in 2025, and the Committee was discharged, with thanks, by Town Meeting.

Members include Daniel Lieber, Chair; Katherine Howitt; Joseph Pride; Eric Reid; Kevin York; and Ann McGonigle Santos, Vice Chair (through August 29, 2025). Town Counsel support was provided by Thomas Mullen, Esq; Special Municipal Counsel support was provided by Mark Bobrowski, Esq.

REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINAIBILTY COMMITTEE

There were twelve full-committee meetings held in 2025 by the Environmental Sustainability Committee (ESC). The ESC supported and promoted Town initiatives and programs including the Town's installation of a solar (PV) array on the Galvin Middle School, Public Works recycling, as well as ongoing food rescue and food scrap composting in schools. The ESC continued to provide education and awareness of Town policies and programs on sustainability topics through digital communications.

The ESC organized several recurring annual events in 2025, including an electric vehicle showcase featuring a wide variety of electric cars and trucks, a pumpkin compost collection, and a sports equipment swap. ESC members also tabled at community events such as Town Day, K-4 STEAM Night, WMGLD's Open House, and Representative Kate Lipper-Garabedian's Recycling and Sustainability Day, providing educational outreach and collecting hard to recycle items. The ESC participated in the Wakefield Fourth of July Parade for the first time in 2025 with an "independent energy" themed trio of electric vehicles featuring (decorative) solar panels.

Also new in 2025, the ESC organized a "Green May Day" event in collaboration with other local groups in Town, including the Warrior Clean Up Crew, the Beebe Library, the Wakefield Garden Club, Safe Streets Working Group, Friends of Lake Quannapowitt, and more. The ESC promoted pollinator-friendly planting and rain gardens with an educational campaign that included lawn signs and an information page on the Town website where residents could learn about environmentally friendly gardening practices.

Members include: Tiana Veldwisch, Chair; Melissa Eusden, Vice Chair; Lillian Guinther, Clerk; Steffin Spears; Rebecca Nuernberger; Christina Olivieri; Tommy Frohlichstein; Robin Greenberg (Clerk first few months); Town Council Liaisons John Carney and John Crisley; WMGLD Liaison Jennifer Kallay; DPW Liaison Ann Waitt; School Community Liaisons Kevin Fontanella and Stephen Ingalls; and Youth Council representative Ellie Pritchard.

Protections of Persons and Property

Reports of:
Police Department
Fire Department
Fire Alarm and Traffic Signal
Emergency Management
Inspectional Services and Zoning
Sealer of Weights and Measures

REPORT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

The year 2025 was a busy year for the Wakefield Police Department. Our Officers responded to 14,859 calls for service during the year, which was an 8.3 percent increase over 2024. Service calls fell into ninety-one different call type categories. There were a total of ninety-eight arrests, with another 148 people summoned to court for various criminal violations.

The mental health crisis continues to keep our Officers busy. The calls are often complex, time consuming, and require extraordinary de-escalation skills. Most people suffering a mental health crisis are not inherently dangerous; however, during a crisis, some people experience delusional and irrational thoughts that can lead to unpredictable behavior. These calls require Officers to make difficult judgements about someone's mental state and necessitate the use of special skills and techniques to effectively and appropriately resolve, all while minimizing the potential for violence. It is not uncommon for a number of Officers to spend over an hour trying to assist someone in crisis.

Not only are our Officers busy with their regular duty assignments, but they continue to receive new training. Every Officer is required to complete forty hours of in-service training annually on topics chosen by the State's Municipal Police Training Council. This training is mandatory for every Officer to maintain their certifications with the Police Officer Standards and Training Commission. Our Officers receive additional training in firearms, active shooter scenarios, leadership, domestic violence, crisis intervention, court testimony, and countless other topics. The Wakefield Police Department takes pride in making sure our Officers are of the highest moral character, well-trained, and well-rounded.

Notable Events

In January, Officers completed a lengthy investigation involving stolen baseball cards from a storage unit at Extra Space Storage on Water Street. Valuable collectors' baseball cards worth $60,000 had been stolen from a locked unit. Detectives were able to track the sale of some of the stolen cards to a certain individual at trade shows. An arrest warrant and search warrant for the suspect's home were granted. The subject was taken into custody and a number of the stolen cards were recovered.

Officer Amy Rando received the Community Service Award at the 2025 Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King event sponsored by the Human Rights Commission. This was a nice recognition for her many years of exceptional service to our community.

On March 5, Officers were alerted that a stolen motor vehicle may be in Wakefield somewhere in the area of Quannapowitt Parkway. The vehicle had been stolen in Danvers on March 4. Officers located a stolen Toyota Highlander in the parking lot of the Lakeside Inn, which was occupied by a male and female. The male operator was charged with receiving a stolen

motor vehicle and, during a motor vehicle inventory, Officer Warren located a small locked box that appeared to have a plastic bag with white powder. After obtaining a search warrant for the box, approximately 15 grams of fentanyl was located inside.

On April 27, we held a Fill-a-Cruiser food drive at Shaw's Supermarket to benefit the Wakefield Food Pantry. This was another successful event, and the cruiser was filled with generously donated items.

On May 4, we were able to close a missing persons case for an adult male who had been reported missing by his parents on April 4, 2025. Officer Whalen, along with detectives, followed up on leads that eventually located this person in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

In May, we unveiled the newest addition to our patrol fleet: the all-electric Chevy Blazer. This vehicle was designed specifically for law enforcement and replaces one of our traditional gas SUVs. The vehicle will be tested under patrol conditions during all four seasons to see how it performs and what it could mean for the future. The early reviews from our Officers have been positive.

Once again, the annual Fourth of July Parade and Fireworks were a success and we thank all of our Officers who represented the Town well while providing a peaceful day and evening for all involved. Lieutenant Joe Anderson was tasked with the security planning for this large-scale event, which requires a tremendous amount of coordination and detail. As usual, he did a great job bringing together a plan that provided a safe environment for the thousands who came out to enjoy the holiday festivities.

During the overnight shift on August 8, Officers responded to Plymouth Road for a serious motor vehicle crash into a utility pole; it was also reported that the driver had fled the scene. Officers found a Mazda SUV with heavy front-end damage crashed into a utility pole. It was immediately apparent that speed was a significant factor in the crash. Fortunately, there were no pedestrians or other vehicles in the area at the time of the impact. Officers eventually located the operator of the Mazda, who was not injured. After a series of field sobriety tests, it was determined the operator would be placed under arrest for OUI. Upon being informed of his arrest, he became violent and elbowed Sgt. Morales in the chest area. He was eventually taken into custody and charged with OUI liquor, assault and battery on a Police Officer, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, leaving the scene of property damage, and speeding.

With the start of the new school year in September, Officer Joseph Lyons took over as the School Resource Officer at the Wakefield Memorial High School. Officer Lyons is a proud member of WMHS Class of 1999. He has quickly established himself as a vital part of the school community.

On October 23, Officer Doran and K-9 Luna responded to Merrimac with the NEMLEC K9 Unit to assist with the search for a missing Autistic eight-year-old boy. Officer Doran used a pillowcase from the boy's belongings as a scent article for Luna. The team began to track to a wooded area behind the boy's residence. They located the missing boy in a swampy area in the woods. He was in good physical condition and after being evaluated by EMS, was returned safely to his family.

On November 2, we had a unique ceremony on the Lower Common where we met Wakefield Strong, a horse donated to the Chicago Police Department by the Horses and Heroes Foundation. The horse was dedicated in honor of Detectives Christopher Grace and John Ryan, who received the prestigious George L. Hanna Award for their actions on January 19, 2021. We had a great crowd and great weather for this event and thank the Foundation for recognizing our Officers.

On December 24, Officers responded to a fight-in-progress call on the top floor of an apartment building. One of the involved individuals began threatening Officers and everyone else in the apartment. As Officers attempted to place him into custody, he began punching and kicking. He was eventually secured in handcuffs without injury to anyone involved.

Detectives
The Detective Division investigated a number of crimes and assisted other law enforcement agencies in various investigations. Detectives supported the Department's mental health clinician with mental health crisis calls, investigated reports of missing people, and assisted the Wakefield Fire Department and Massachusetts Fire Marshal's Office with fire investigations. Our Detective Unit also continues to spend considerable time on identity theft, sextortion cases, and cases that involve our residents being scammed out of money. The scams are constantly evolving and our Detectives do a great job of trying to keep the public informed.

Here are some notable cases from 2025:
In March, the patrol shift and Detectives responded to a home on Lakeshore Drive for a report of gun shots. Two gunshot victims were located and transported to the hospital with serious injuries. Detectives were assisted by the Mass State Police Detective unit and other agencies on developing suspects. The Middlesex District Attorney's Office continues to review the facts in this case.

In June, a suspect stole a pocketbook from a vehicle parked at a gas pump while the victim was inside the gas station. After interviewing witnesses and watching video evidence, a suspect was identified. The suspect was located and arrested on several warrants.

In July, a juvenile was arrested for assault by means of a firearm and possession of a large-capacity firearm without a permit. The suspect had pointed the firearm at another youth during an argument and then

fled the area on foot. Detective Silva located the suspect, who was taken into custody after a foot pursuit. The firearm was recovered with the help of a police canine.

In September, a man was seen entering an apartment complex with what appeared to be a firearm. Using witness accounts and video evidence, a suspect was identified and located.

In December, Detectives investigated an armed home invasion. The suspects were armed with firearms and assaulted the occupants by pistol whipping them. The suspects fled the house when the victims started to fight back. This investigation is ongoing and Detectives are still gathering evidence.

Also in December, Detectives began investigating the disappearance of resident Jason Thomas from Murray Street. Thomas was reported missing by his wife on the morning of December 13 and hasn't been seen since. Detectives have invested hundreds of hours investigating this case and following all leads.

Personnel
We are sad to report that four former Wakefield Police Officers passed away in 2025. All of these individuals worked their entire careers in Wakefield, retired in good standing, and left a lasting legacy.

Officer Ronald Hanson passed away on March 18 at the age of 86. Officer Hanson was appointed as a Reserve Officer on July 1, 1964, and became a full-time Patrol Officer on November 1, 1964. He served as a Patrol Officer for many years before becoming the Department's Court Prosecutor in 1987, a role he held until his retirement in April of 2000.

Sergeant Ronald LeBlanc passed away on October 29 at the age of 75. Sgt. LeBlanc joined the Wakefield Police Department on May 12, 1983, as a Reserve Officer and became full-time on June 20 of the same year. He was promoted to the rank of Sergeant on March 17, 1993, a rank he held until his retirement in 2008. During his tenure with WPD, Sgt. LeBlanc served on a regional SWAT team and as the Department's firearms instructor.

Officer George Barry passed away in October at the age of 75. Officer Barry was appointed as a full-time Officer on February 21, 1974, and retired on July 5, 2005. He remained working as a Special Officer until 2015. Officer Barry received the George L. Hanna Award for his actions on December 26, 2000, at the Edgewater Technologies homicide scene.

Officer Robert Ramocki passed away on December 30 at the age of 72. Officer Ramocki was appointed as a Reserve Officer on March 3, 1977, and as a full-time Officer on November 29, 1979. He was promoted to Detective in 1987 and became the Department's DARE Officer in 1993. Bob retired on February 24, 2010, and continued to serve as a Special Officer until 2018.

All four of these Officers had a profound impact on the Town of Wakefield. May they never be forgotten.

We also saw some personnel changes in 2025:
Sergeant Christopher Lenners retired on January 18 after twenty-five years of service to the Town. Sgt. Lenners was appointed as a full-time Officer in December of 2000 and was promoted to the rank of Sergeant on August 29, 2008. We wish Chris a long and healthy retirement.

Officer Russell Carman was promoted to the rank of Sergeant on February 10 to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Sgt. Lenners. Sgt. Carman has been with the Wakefield Police Department since September of 2014 and is a proud member of the Department's motorcycle unit.

Officer Jovany Garcia graduated from the Northern Essex Community College Police Academy on February 20. Officer Garcia went on to successfully complete our intense twelve-week field training program and is now assigned to patrol on the night shift.

Officer Cameron McCusker resigned from his position with WPD on May 25 to join the ranks of the Maine State Police as a Trooper. We wish Cam a successful career in the State of Maine.

Officer Matt Morneau joined the WPD on July 21. Officer Morneau brings a wealth of experience, having previously served as a Sergeant with the Nahant Police Department for many years. Officer Morneau holds many certifications and serves as an instructor at the Lynnfield Police Academy.

Moving forward
2026 will no doubt be another busy and challenging year for our Department. We have a number of Officers eligible to retire, but we hope they decide to continue their careers here, as their experience is invaluable. The construction boom in Town will continue, and we will see our population grow along with an increased demand on the Town's services.

Our wonderful staff of sworn Officers, parking enforcement Officers, and clinician are ready for any new challenges and will continue to provide our residents with outstanding services. As always, feel free to contact us in a time of need.

Steven A. Skory
Chief of Police

REPORT OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the Wakefield Fire Department for calendar year 2025. The Department was extremely busy with various incident response and the continued construction boom within the Town in the past year. The Department responded to 5,377 incidents which represents a 13.14 percent increase in call volume during 2025.

The ongoing development in Town, specifically the construction of numerous large apartment and condominium complexes, has resulted in an increase in incident responses handled by this Department. The Department has experienced a steady increase in emergency response, public assistance, and service-related incidents as large residential developments are being completed and occupied. Instances of multiple simultaneous calls or back-to-back calls are occurring with increasing regularity, comprising approximately 30.47 percent of the Department incident responses in 2025. The Department's average time on scene at an emergency was fourteen minutes. The number of incident responses has steadily climbed each year, and 30.47 percent of the time companies are committed to an incident, the Department receives another call for service to the public. This may warrant the staffing of a third fire engine or the addition of a third fire station in the future. Developments that have already been approved or that are presently under consideration will continue to generate an increased demand on services provided to the community by this Department.

The Wakefield Fire Department continues to receive substantial financial aid in the form of state and federal grants. These grants have become a vital source of capital in order to purchase new equipment and fund training programs for the Department. A summary of the financial aid received by the federal and state government can be found in the apparatus and equipment section of this report.

Emergency Incident Response

During 2025, the Wakefield Fire Department responded to 5,377 emergency incidents, including 4,887 still alarms and 450 box alarms. The Department responded to eleven working fires in 2025. The Department respond to several serious incidents; however, this was the first year in many that Wakefield did not have to strike a second alarm at a working incident. Companies were able to control several serious fires before additional resources were required, showing the importance of maintaining a well-trained all-hazards Department.

There were several noteworthy fire incidents that occurred in 2025 that did not require a multiple alarm response.

Wakefield Firefighters under the command of Captain John Walsh responded to a reported garage fire at 63 Oak Street at 10:28 a.m. on March 31. Crews arrived within two minutes to find heavy smoke and fire showing from a detached garage in close proximity to a house. They forced

open a locked yard gate and gained access to the garage through a side door. Firefighters then advanced a hose line up the garage stairs into the loft area, quickly knocking the fire down. Firefighters from Ladder 1 cut an opening in the garage roof to vent the structure of smoke and heat. The fire was under control by 10:48 a.m. A Stoneham fire engine covered Wakefield Fire Headquarters during the fire, responding to number of calls including several fire alarm activations and an emergency medical call. All apparatus cleared the scene by 11:47 a.m. The entire loft area of the garage sustained heavy smoke and heat damage. The remainder of the garage sustained smoke and water damage. There was no damage to the adjoining home. The fire was investigated with the assistance of Troopers from the State Fire Marshal's Office. There were no injuries to either residents or Firefighters during the fire. Quick work by first arriving Firefighters saved the garage and adjoining residential exposures from any serious structural/fire damage.

Wakefield Firefighters under the command of Captain Brian Purcell responded to several reports of a serious motor vehicle accident in the vicinity of 384 Vernon Street at 6:27 a.m. on April 12. Upon arrival, Firefighters found that a car had struck a utility pole, snapping it at its base, before flipping over and coming to rest on its roof. The male operator was trapped inside the vehicle and had to be extricated by Firefighters using a battery-operated hydraulic rescue tool. He was then transported to Lahey Hospital in Burlington for follow-up care.

Firefighters under the command of Captain Brian Purcell responded to 10 Birch Hill Avenue at 6:46 p.m. on June 24 after receiving a report of a garage fire at that location. On arrival at the scene, an occupant of the building reported discovering a fire at the rear of the garage. Firefighters investigated and found that an arcing light fixture had ignited a section of the rear wall of the garage. Firefighters stretched a handline and quickly extinguished the fire. The fire was contained to the immediate area surrounding the light fixture. Prompt reporting of the fire by the occupant helped to prevent a more serious fire from occurring in this unoccupied detached garage. The fire caused no damage to the nearby home and the garage was fully operational after the fire was extinguished. There were no injuries as a result of this fire.

Wakefield Firefighters under the command of Captain John Walsh responded to a report of a house fire at 78 Cedar Street during the afternoon of July 29. On arrival, Firefighters found a small fire extinguished on the front porch of the multi-family residence. They checked the front wall and porch area finding no evidence of any fire extension. The cause of the fire was determined to be the careless disposal of smoking materials. A much more serious fire was averted thanks to the actions of a neighborhood postal carrier, who brought the fire to the attention of a neighbor, who in turn reported it via 911.

The Metropolitan Boston area had very little rain during the month of August, resulting in dangerously low moisture levels in ground vegetation in local wooded areas. These conditions triggered two fast moving wild land/

brush fires during the afternoon of August 7. Crews under the command of Captain Paul Pronco were dispatched to a reported brush fire near Oakland Road and quickly discovered a rapidly spreading fire in the Crystal Woods section of the Town Forest located between Oakland Road and West Park Drive. The fire extended for several acres before Firefighters were able to bring it under control. Firefighters from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (MA DCR) were sent to assist local Firefighters in controlling the fire. While this fire was being fought, the Department started to receive reports of a second brush fire near the top of Hart's Hill, not far from the top of Dillaway Street. Firefighters from Greenwood Engine 2 were dispatched to this second fire with a Melrose Fire company assisting them at the scene. An area of approximately one acre burned before being contained. A Stoneham engine company covered Wakefield Fire Headquarters while these fires were being extinguished. Both brush fires burned into the deep ground litter and underground root systems, requiring both MA DCR and local Firefighters to return on a daily basis for several weeks to extinguish hot spots and areas rekindled by windy conditions.

On September 8 at 2:51 p.m., crews led by Captain John Walsh responded to an oil tank leak at 63 Whittier Road. On arrival, Car 3 confirmed that fifty to seventy gallons of fuel oil from a ruptured oil tank had spread across the basement. The Department of Environmental Protection was notified and responded. Crews deployed multiple bags of absorbent throughout the basement, utilized a multi-gas detector, and deployed ejector fans to remove the residual odor. A private contractor was called in for environmental cleanup of the basement.

On September 9 at 12:44 p.m., the Department received a call from Police reporting a motor vehicle accident with a vehicle on its roof at 151 Broadway. On arrival, Captain Paul Pronco in Car 3 confirmed a two-car accident with one vehicle on its roof blocking Broadway. The occupant had self-extricated, was given initial medical attention, and transported to Melrose Wakefield Hospital.

On September 10, 2025, at 9:35 p.m., Police reported a vehicle rollover with entrapment at the intersection of Water and Farm Streets. On arrival, Captain Randy Hudson confirmed a two-car motor vehicle accident with two occupants entrapped in one of the vehicles. The Ladder 1 crew stabilized the vehicle and proceeded to use the "jaws of life" to extricate both parties from the vehicle as Engine 1 stretched a precautionary handline. Patients were taken by Cataldo ambulance to a local hospital.

On the morning of September 10 at 8: 46 a.m., an employee of Cibo restaurant 1179 Main Street reported a kitchen fire to Fire Department dispatch. Box 186 was transmitted. On arrival, Engine 2's Lieutenant Gary Hill reported a heavy smoke condition and, after further investigation, found that an employee had deployed a dry chemical fire extinguisher to contain an appliance fire. An electrical issue within an ice chest had caused a fire

within the unit. Companies on scene removed the appliance to the exterior to ensure full extinguishment, ventilated the structure, and checked for fire extension. The fire investigation unit was called to the scene along with the Board of Health. The restaurant was closed for several days for cleanup.

On October 3 at 7:11 p.m., a box was struck when a caller reported smoke from a vehicle in the area of 31 New Salem Street. On Car 3's arrival, Captain Brian Purcell reported fire emanating from under the hood of a two-door Mercedes in the yard of John's Foreign Auto. Purcell quickly knocked down the fire with an extinguisher as companies forced open the hood with hydraulic spreaders and extinguished the remaining fire with an attack line off of Engine 1. This work ensured the fire was contained to the vehicle, as it was up against the building and was nearly extending inside the structure.

On October 12 at 4:07 p.m., fire alarm dispatch received a 911 call for smoke coming from the roof of the property located at 17 Outlook Road. Box 265 was struck. On arrival, Captain Paul Pronco in Car 3 noticed heavy smoke showing from the eaves of the structure. All parties were confirmed to have evacuated the home. Engine 1 quickly stretched a 1 ¾" attack line to the interior, locating the fire inside the "Bravo" side wall above the fireplace. Wakefield Engine 2 established a water supply and assisted with interior operations, opening up the wall. Our Ladder 1 crew utilized ground ladders to access the roof where they made a trench cut alongside the large chimney. A 1 ¾" line was deployed to the roof cut and companies where able to access the fire and extinguish from the top side. This was a very labor-intensive fire. Crews made a great stop, as the fire was minutes from spreading into the cockloft and would have consumed the home. Acting Chief Purcell and Stoneham Fire were also on scene. Fire investigation concluded that the fire was unintentional, starting in the unlined brick masonry chimney and spreading to the interior wood framing of the wall located above the fireplace.

On October 13, Group 1, led by Captain Randy Hudson, received a residential fire alarm for 9 Franklin Street. Box 13 was transmitted. On arrival, a resident was frantic in the driveway and led Firefighters to the second-floor unit, which was charged with smoke. Companies discovered a stove fire. A blanket with debris on top of the stove was also on fire. Engine 1 crew extinguished the fire and removed the stove and contents to the exterior of the home. Thermal imaging cameras were utilized to check for fire extension. Finding none, the home was ventilated of smoke. The tenant had placed a plastic kettle on the stove, which ignited, and then attempted to extinguish the fire with a blanket, which also ignited.

On November 4, the Department received a call from a panicked resident at 5 Columbia Road Unit #6 reporting smoke in an apartment occupied by people with physical disabilities. Box 3622 was transmitted. Companies under the command of Captain Randy Hudson responded, reporting a light smoke condition in Apartment #6. The building was a large six-family structure. A line was stretched to the apartment, the truck company placed

an aerial ladder to the roof, and Engine 2 made connection to the closest hydrant. Occupants were evacuated from the structure, with some of the individuals sheltered in place. After further investigation, it was found that multiple mattresses were smoldering and had ignited due to careless disposal of smoking materials. Mattresses and a charred box spring were removed from the building and washed down. The smoldering fire was moments from becoming out of control in such a large, occupied, residential structure and would have gone to several alarms. The building sustained substantial smoke damage. Car 1, Car 2, and the Fire Investigation Unit were on scene. Stoneham Fire covered headquarters during the incident.

On November 6 at 3:38 p.m., Wakefield Police transferred a 911 call to fire alarm dispatch reporting an oven fire in a four-family multi-unit building at 46 Pleasant Street. Crews were able to quickly contain the fire to the broiler portion of the oven where a wooden cutting board had been left exposed and caught fire. The oven was removed to the exterior while the Gas and Light Department capped off the gas line. The Department utilized smoke ejectors to ventilate the building and the Fire Investigation Unit was called to the scene.

On the evening of November 22 at 5:45 p.m., Engine 1 was dispatched to 100 Redfield Road by an MWRA representative for a leaking oxygen tank at the pumping station, which was undergoing a full-scale renovation. Investigation revealed a large liquid oxygen tank venting with several oxy/acetylene tanks and several large diesel storage tanks within close proximity. The box was transmitted and the full assignment was filled out. On arrival, Captain Hudson, along with Engine 1's Lieutenant Dan Hancock, declared a Tier 1 hazmat incident. Two water supplies from nearby hydrants were established with blitz guns set up flanking the tanks from each side. Several homes in the area were evacuated as a precaution. Chief Purcell and members of the Massachusetts State Hazardous Materials team arrived on scene and a plan was established to continue to vent/drain the liquid oxygen (LOX) tank down. Initially, the operator's valve to the LOX tank was frozen, but was eventually able to be freed, allowing the tank to fully vent. Once emptied, all other tanks were fully secured, companies made up, and homeowners were allowed to return without further incident. Lynnfield and Stoneham provided mutual aid to the Town while companies were engaged for over two hours.

Companies responded to a serious natural gas incident at 11A and B Fitch Court on December 7. Utilizing the Department's multi-gas detection equipment, the initial investigation in Unit A revealed extremely high readings of natural gas on multiple levels of the building. The home was evacuated and WMGLD responded to assist. Subsequently, companies accessed Unit B, which was directly connected to the unit of origin, and found even higher readings. It was determined the heating system in both units was the issue. The gas supply to the system was shut down and tagged for immediate service while the homes were ventilated. Occupants were instructed to call for immediate service of the heating appliance. The carbon

monoxide concentration found in the adjoining multi-unit occupancy was elevated to toxic levels. Disaster was averted due to timely response and the thorough investigation of fire companies. The structure was fully ventilated and all appliances shut down.

At 5:53 p.m. on December 30, fire dispatch received a call from a resident at 5 Willard Road stating that the bricks surrounding the fireplace in his home were extremely warm despite not having a fire in the fireplace for several days. Box 346 was transmitted, dispatching Engine 1, Ladder 1, Engine 2, and Car 3 to the residence. The Department found no active fire in the fireplace, the chimney flue, or any walls in the attic space, yet readings from the thermal imaging cameras exceed 600 degrees Fahrenheit on the exterior brick chimney of the home. Crews, under the command of Captain Randy Hudson, were finally able to locate a pocket of fire within a void space in the chimney that was extremely difficult to access. Several chemical pouches were discharged into the chimney and the Department also utilized chimney chains to extinguish any fire. The home was checked for elevated levels of carbon monoxide using a multi-gas detector with negligible readings found. Once interior chimney temperatures decreased substantially, the incident was declared under control and the occupant was advised to have the chimney service by a professional contractor. Stoneham Fire covered fire headquarters during the incident.

The year 2025, despite no multiple-alarm fires, was filled with early notification, timely response, and quick work by Wakefield Firefighters responding to several life-threatening emergencies. Many of the above-mentioned fires could have easily escalated to several alarms and consumed much more property if not for the outstanding work of our well-trained Fire Department. The Department responded to mutual aid requests on multiple occasions in 2025 to assist in fire suppression of some serious multiple-alarm fires in neighboring communities.

Personnel
As of December 31, 2025, the Wakefield Fire Department consisted of fifty-six personnel: The Chief of Department; a Deputy Fire Chief; five Captains, including a Captain assigned as a Fire Prevention Officer; twelve Lieutenants; thirty-six Firefighters; and one civilian Administrative Assistant.

The year 2025 brought unprecedented personnel changes to the Wakefield Fire Department. Wakefield Fire Captain David Shinney retired on April 24 after serving with the Department for thirty years. Shinney, a well-respected and knowledgeable fire officer, was appointed to the Wakefield Fire Department as a Permanent Firefighter on April 24, 1995. He was promoted to Fire Lieutenant on July 1, 2014, and then promoted to Fire Captain on July 16, 2020. Captain Shinney served his last five years as the Department's Fire Prevention Officer before his retirement. Wakefield Fire Lieutenant Sean Curran was promoted to Fire Captain and Wakefield Firefighter Russell Ricker was promoted to Fire Lieutenant on April 23 during a brief ceremony held at the Public Safety Building presided over by Wakefield Town Clerk

Betsy Sheeran. Captain Sean Curran is a twenty-seven-year member of the Department and was assigned as the Department's new Fire Prevention Officer to replace retired Captain Shinney. Lieutenant Russell Ricker was assigned as a Lieutenant on Group 3. Firefighter Nathan Bleu resigned from the Department after ten years of service in July. Christopher Curran and James DeMartino also resigned from the Department, transferring to MassPort Fire during the month of July.

Fire Chief Michael J. Sullivan officially retired from the Department on November 12, 2025. Sullivan was appointed a Provisional Firefighter on August 9, 1984; appointed a Permanent Firefighter on October 3, 1985; promoted to Lieutenant on September 22, 1994; promoted to Captain on October 20, 1999; appointed Interim Chief on August 1, 2008; and Promoted to Permanent Chief on September 1, 2009. A retirement ceremony was held at the Americal Civic Center on November 12 in recognition of Sullivan's forty-one years of service to the Town. Fire Chief (retired) David L. Parr, Sullivan's immediate predecessor, served as master of ceremonies as he recounted the Sullivan family's century of service to the town. Town Administrator Denise Casey spoke briefly, as did several elected State officials. Current Fire Chief Thomas Purcell and Local 1478 Union President Ken Lyons each presented Sullivan with a plaque in recognition of his service. The Department thanks Chief Sullivan for his years of dedicated service and wishes him a happy and healthy retirement.

The month of December marked a historical period in the Wakefield Fire Department as new leadership changed after a seventeen-year period. On December 12, the Department held a well-attended promotional ceremony at the Americal Civic Center as Thomas M. Purcell III was officially sworn in as the new Chief of Department by Town Clerk Betsy Sheeran. Purcell is only the eighth Firefighter to serve as Chief of the Wakefield Fire Department since 1899. Also sworn in during the ceremony were John Walsh as the Deputy Fire Chief, Michael Long as Fire Captain, and Nolan Curran as Fire Lieutenant. Chief Purcell presided over the ceremony with assistance from Captain Sean Curran and Town Administrator Denise Casey. Many family members, current and former Department members, and Town staff attended the ceremony to usher in the new leadership team at the Wakefield Fire Department.

Due to the civil service hiring process and lengthy backlog at the Massachusetts State Firefighting Academy, several candidates have been processed to fill the remaining vacant positions created by all the above-mentioned retirements within the Department, but will not start for at least six months. Currently, the Department has four candidates scheduled to attend the Academy in January and February of 2026 and one additional scheduled in June of 2026.

Apparatus and equipment

Funding from federal and state agencies continues to provide necessary equipment and training that the Department needs to carry out its public safety mission. The Department was awarded a $18,916 grant from the FY2025 Firefighter Safety and Equipment Grant from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security. This award provided 100 percent funding for three vehicle rescue struts, two chain saws for roof ventilation operations during structure fires, one thermal imaging camera, and one set of cribbing blocks used in conjunction with the Department's hydraulic rescue tools. The Department was also awarded $4,500 from a second round of the FY2025 Firefighter Safety and Equipment Grant and was able to purchase a hand-held thermal imaging camera, replacing a worn out and obsolete version. The Department purchased a 2025 Polaris Ranger all-terrain utility vehicle with capital funding, which was put into service in July. This much needed all-wheel drive vehicle gives the Department the ability to traverse all types of off-road terrain, with towing and hauling capabilities, during emergency operations. This type of vehicle is crucial when navigating areas like the rail-trial system and Breakheart Reservation. It is equipped with a dedicated EMS/rescue skid that includes an attendant's seat, enclosed gear storage, and mounts for IV poles and O2 bottles. The Department was able to purchase new forestry hose and new smoke ejectors with funds received from generous local donations.

In November 2025, Town Meeting voted to approve the appropriation of $1.35 million dollars for the purchase of a new Seagrave 1500 GPM Fire Pumper. The pumper is not slated to arrive until sometime in late 2029 due to the delivery backlog at the Seagrave plant in Wisconsin. The price of fire apparatus has risen sharply over the past several years due to cost of the raw materials needed to produce the vehicle's steel and electronic components. The Department received, as part of last year's capital budget request, a 2025 Chevy Blazer to replace the aging fire prevention vehicle, a $5,000 local match for a Federal AFG Grant, and $5,250 for new iPad tablets for fire apparatus which support new dispatch and fire prevention software. This year's Capital requests include a replacement for two command vehicles; a replacement for Car 6, a 2011 utility body pick-up; fifteen flashlights and charging bank; two inflatable boats to replace the aging thirty-year-old Avon inflatable craft; and new funds to replace several portable radios.

All of the Department's pumpers, fire hose, ground ladders, aerial ladder, and breathing apparatus were inspected, tested, and certified in 2025. The air compressor, used by the Department to refill its breathing apparatus, was also tested and inspected, as were all the air bottles. All of the Department's semi-automatic defibrillators received their annual service inspection in 2025. All Department vehicles and apparatus successfully passed their state inspections.

Training

The Department participated in several new trainings in 2025, including programs offered by the Massachusetts State Fire Firefighting Academy and outside vendors. Members also completed continuing education requirements for their Emergency Medical Technician certifications, which included annual recertification in CPR techniques and defibrillator training. All Department members are required to be certified at the level of Massachusetts Emergency Medical Technician: Basic. Training during the year includes in-house as well as practical on-site training.

The Department conducted training on the following topics during 2025:

- Water and ice rescue operations at Lake Quannapowitt and Crystal Lake. This training included operation of the new Rescue One fire boat, the inflatable Avon water craft, and the water/rescue ice sled.
- All members were trained in the use of Mustang Commander Ice Rescue suits.
- All members were certified and trained on the on- and off-road operation of the Department's new Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) at Camp Curtis Guild in May and June.
- Annual training was conducted with the Department's hydraulic rescue tools, including the "jaws of life," hydraulic rams, jacks, and air bags.
- All members participated in a health and wellness training provided by First Responder Wellness of Merrimack Valley. The organization offers comprehensive mental health and wellness services tailored for fire, EMS, and their families and is an important aspect of taking care of today's Firefighters.
- The Massachusetts Fire Academy conducted a refresher program for Department members regarding hazardous materials incidents at the operational level.
- All groups reviewed year-long training on Department standard operating guidelines that include incident command and control, fire ground communications, establishing fire ground operations, mutual aid protocols, carbon monoxide emergencies, cold weather operations, oil burner / heating appliance emergencies, high rise-operations, drafting, vehicle extrication, engine pump operation, aerial ladder operation, laddering of buildings, electric vehicle fires, ladder truck aerial ladder-pipe set-up procedures, proper use of the Department's multi-gas detectors, natural gas and propane-related emergencies, heating appliance / burner emergencies, chimney fire operations, emergency dispatch / mayday / radio procedures, and rapid intervention teams.
- All groups conducted training evolutions on the use of rescue struts and airbags, engine company operations, ground ladders, and emergency operations and safety on highway incidents.
- A District Fire Warden from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation conducted a class on wildfire firefighting operations for all of the Department's duty groups.

- Representatives from the Wakefield Animal Hospital visited Wakefield Fire to review animal shelter and care.
- The Department of Fire Services conducted a class on fire tactics and strategies for the company officer, which the Department hosted in the Public Safety Building's community room.
- All Department groups toured the new battery energy storage park located on Hemlock Road between the new High School and the new Vocational School.
- The Department groups conduct regular walk-throughs for building familiarization during construction projects, including both new high schools, The Basin on Quannapowitt Parkway, and other major developments.
- The Department participated in some hands-on, live-time drills on several vacant homes that were donated prior to demolition. This allows the Firefighters to work on important skills such as roof ventilation, stretching/flowing of handlines, search and rescue, forcible entry, pump operation, laddering of dwellings, SCBA usage, breaching of walls, bail-out and self-rescue, mayday, communications, and rapid intervention training.

Captain Paul Pronco and Lieutenant Steven Bivens continue to be active members of the Northeast Massachusetts Technical Rescue Team, and Lieutenant Michael Long continues to be an active member of the District 2 Hazardous Materials Response Team. The Wakefield Fire Department Fire Investigation Unit (FIU) is led by Deputy Chief John Walsh and Lieutenant Erik Cole. The unit investigates cause and origin of all fire-related incidents with assistance from the Massachusetts State Police Fire and Explosive Unit. All Department members attend regular monthly training pertaining to their specialized teams.

Fire prevention

The Department continued its practice of conducting in-service inspections of commercial and industrial properties in Town during 2025. As a result, 577 business fire inspections were conducted in the community between March and November of 2025 by on-duty Firefighters operating on a ready-to-respond basis. An additional eighty quarterly inspections of school buildings, nursing homes, hotels, and boarding homes were also conducted by on-duty Firefighters. Captain Sean Curran, the Department's Fire Prevention Officer, conducted 104 inspections related to local and state licensing of restaurants, liquor stores, assembly halls, group homes, day care centers, and after-school programs. He completed 317 compliance inspections during 2025 to ensure that any potential violations or hazards previously discovered were corrected.

Wakefield continued to experience a construction boom in 2025. The Fire Prevention Bureau was closely involved with the construction of a new thirty-two-unit apartment building at 610 Salem Street, a fifty-eight-unit apartment complex at 62 Foundry Street, and The Basin, a 440-unit apartment

complex on Quannapowitt Parkway at the head of the Lake. The Basin is close to completion and has added substantial emergency responses to the already busy department.

The Department is closely involved in the planning and construction phases of the new Wakefield Memorial High School as well as the new Northeast Regional Vocational School projects. With over $500+ million spent in new infrastructure between the two schools, these massive projects involve hundreds of hours dedicated by Fire Prevention Captain Curran, Deputy Chief Walsh, and Chief Purcell.

The Department conducted approximately 141 on-site safety inspections of large construction sites during 2025 and reviewed approximately ninety-four sets of plans, including residential additions, new homes, and commercial tenant fit-ups in many locations around Wakefield. As of February 2, 2025, Massachusetts officially allows accessory dwelling units (ADUs) by right in single-family residential zoning districts statewide, enabling homeowners to build attached or detached units without needing special permits. This has further increased plan and final-construction reviews by the Department.

Fire Prevention Officer Captain Sean Curran and Deputy John Walsh continue to fill a vital role in the Wakefield Fire Department. The Department can't function properly without these two administrative positions. At this time, the Department needs additional staffing within the Fire Prevention / Code Enforcement division due to the overwhelming amount of growth within the Town. The Deputy Fire Chief also serves as the Department's executive officer, assuming command of the Department in the absence of the Fire Chief. The Deputy coordinates training, develops new policies and procedures, and helps to prepare the operating budget. The Deputy also coordinates the maintenance of the Department's fire stations, equipment, and vehicles.

The Department conducted numerous fire station tours during 2025 including numerous Boy and Girl Scout groups, preschools, and summer school programs. Additionally, several in-service visits were made by Firefighters to various preschool and kindergarten classes in town. The Department, through a State SAFE and SENIOR funded grant, is steadily reincorporating the Student Awareness of Fire Education (SAFE) program within the Town. This program has been spearheaded by Lieutenant Steve Bivens and is vital to the fire safety protection of our most vulnerable populations, including our children and senior residents. Fire drills are conducted at every school facility four times each school year. Several multi-hazard evacuation drills were conducted during the fall of 2025 with more being planned for the spring of 2026. Town events also keep the Department heavily involved within the community.

Conclusion

I am grateful to the members of the Wakefield Fire Department for their unwavering dedication as professional Firefighters in protecting our Town day in and day out, to the community, and specifically the Town Council, Finance Committee, and newly appointed Town Administrator Denise Casey for their ongoing support during the year. I would also like to thank the Department's administrative assistant Pamela Cruciani for her steadfast support, dedication, and commitment to our team. Without her effort, we would not be able to function at the level required by the Fire Departments administrative office. I would like to give special recognition to recently retired Town Administrator Stephen P. Maio for his years of dedicated service to the Town. Steve was an advocate for public safety and the Wakefield Fire Department during his ten years as a member of the Board of Selectman and during his entire seventeen-year tenure as Town Administrator. His support was instrumental in moving the Department from four to twelve Lieutenants, implementing a mandatory company officer on each piece of apparatus, reinstating fire prevention permanently in 2008 after a fire-year absence, incorporating the shift commander / Car 3 into the Department's response protocol, instituting the position of Deputy Fire Chief as second in command of Department operations, and most significantly, increasing the Department staffing level in order for the Department to operate "efficiently and safely" in fulfilling its public safety mission. The Department wishes Steve and his family a long, healthy, retirement.

With thirty years of service to the Town and recently promoted to Chief of Department, my goals for 2026 are to advocate for the replacement of aging fire apparatus, continue to make quality training programs available for Department members, identify additional funding resources to assist in the Department's equipment and training needs, and continue with the reestablishment of the SAFER program for the students and seniors of Wakefield. The Deputy Chief and I will continue to monitor the increase in emergency responses made by this Department and recommend the need for additional personnel, facilities, and apparatus, as circumstances demonstrate the need for them. We consider it our duty and a privilege to protect the residents of the Town of Wakefield. I would like to thank the Wakefield Police Department, all other Town boards, committees, departments, and the residents of Wakefield for their continued support and assistance of the Wakefield Fire Department.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas M. Purcell III
Wakefield Fire Chief

2025 Emergency Responses	
Box alarms	450
Still alarms	4,887
Total alarms	**5,337**
Medical emergency / Motor vehicle accident responses	3,235
Fire alarm system management	839
Alarm malfunctions / accidental alarm investigations	526
Public assistance / public service responses	154
Investigations of hazards, gas and smoke odors	219
Mutual aid responses to other communities	58
Water hazard emergency responses	22
Appliance fires / emergencies	13
Heating system emergency responses	17
Electrical fires / emergency responses	24
Hazardous materials incident responses	10
Carbon monoxide detector investigations	83
Structure / building fires	11
Brush and grass fires	47
Motor vehicle fires	10
Rubbish and dumpster fires	4
Malicious false alarms	16
Rescue responses (water rescue, elevator rescue)	19
Mutual aid assistance received by Wakefield	30

Equipment	2025 Usage
1 ½" hose	6,300 feet
1 ¾" hose	9,450 feet
2 ½" hose	3,950 feet
3" hose	0 feet
4" hose	3,075 feet
Ladders	614 feet
Air masks used	91 times
Salvage covers used	8 times
Smoke ejectors used	37 times
Fire extinguishers used	33 times
Thermal cameras used	63 times
Multi-gas detectors used	233 times

Apparatus Responses 2025			
Unit	Boxes	Stills	Total
Engine 1: 2017 1250 GPM Seagrave Pumper	385	2,039	2,424
Engine 2: 2021 1250 GPM Seagrave Pumper	420	1,352	1,772
Engine 4: 2000 1250 GPM Seagrave Pumper (Reserve)	11	72	83
Engine 5: 2006 1250 GPM Seagrave Pumper (Reserve)	77	402	479
Ladder 1: 2013 Seagrave 100' Aerial	358	1,689	2,047
Car 6: 2011 Chevrolet Silverado Utility Truck	60	310	370
Car 3: 2018 Chevrolet Tahoe 4WD Utility Vehicle	412	779	1,191

Additional apparatus operated by the Department

- Car 1: 2018 Ford Explorer AWD Utility Vehicle, Assigned to the Fire Chief
- Car 2: 2015 Ford Explorer 4WD Utility Vehicle, Assigned to the Deputy Fire Chief
- Car 3: 2018 Chevrolet Tahoe 4WD Utility Vehicle, Assigned to Shift Commander/Captain
- Car 4: 2014 Ford Explorer AWD Utility Vehicle, Assigned to Captain/Fire Prevention Officer
- Car 6: 2011 Chevrolet Silverado 4WD Utility Truck
- Marine Units: 2025 Rescue One 16' Boat, 1995 10' Avon Rubber Rescue Boat
- Utility Terrain Vehicle: 2025 Polaris Ranger AWD

Fire Prevention Report 2025	
Smoke detector certificates issued	363
Oil burner permits issued	54
Oil storage permitted (gallons)	13,453
Propane gas storage permits issued	21
Flammable liquid storage permits issued	14
Sprinkler system inspection, test, service permits issued	123
Fire alarm system inspection, test, service permits issued	313
Blasting / fireworks permits issued	8
Fuel tank removal permits issued	70
In-service fire prevention inspections conducted	677
New fire protection system installation permits issued	84
Open Air Burning Permits Issued (Jan. To May)	27
Final fire alarm acceptance tests	77
Fire Prevention Inspections Related to State/Local Licensing	101
Compliance inspections conducted by Fire Prevention Officer	277
Cutting / welding permits issued	34
Quarterly inspections conducted (schools, hotels/lodging houses, nursing homes)	80
Sets of Construction Plan Reviewed	107
Fire prevention complaints investigated	16
Construction site visits	141

REPORT OF THE FIRE ALARM AND TRAFFIC SIGNAL DEPARTMENT

The Fire Alarm and Traffic Signal Department maintains nineteen signalized intersections, twelve fire alarm circuits, and dispatch offices in both fire stations. In 2025, thirty-nine calls for traffic signal service were received. These included calls for vehicle detection issues, traffic signal bulbs out, intersections in flash mode, and pedestrian buttons not functioning properly. There were three traffic signal knockdowns that occurred at Main and Salem Streets, Lowell and Salem Streets, and Vernon and Water Streets. Repairs were made to the vehicle detection systems at North Avenue and Prospect Street. All pedestrian buttons were tested semi-annually.

The municipal fire alarm system created eighteen calls for service in 2025, including four open fire alarm circuits. Fire alarm box painting, utility pole changes, cable resagging, and tree trimming were completed as yearly preventive maintenance. All fire alarm boxes were tested semi-annually. Three new master boxes were installed at buildings on Quannapowitt Parkway, North Avenue, and Salem Street.

Randy Hudson,
Fire Alarm Superintendent

REPORT OF THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) prepares for natural and manmade disasters, serving as the local branch of the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The Town is required by law to belong to a regional or local emergency planning committee, and Wakefield belongs to the Mystic Regional Emergency Planning Committee (REPC) to fulfil this requirement. The Mystic REPC serves twenty-seven municipalities and represents over one million people in the Commonwealth. The Committee meets six times a year and works to conduct and coordinate emergency exercises and procedures throughout the region. Jennifer McDonald, the Town of Wakefield's Communications Director, serves as the Executive Secretary of the Committee and I serve as the Treasurer.

In 2025, the Committee continued to educate member communities about the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), which requires industry to report on the storage, use, and releases of certain chemicals to federal, state, tribal, territorial, and/or local governments. All communities within our region were provided with training on EPCRA compliance and Tier II hazardous chemical inventory reporting, a vital part of the mission of the OEM.

Wakefield subscribes to the Everbridge e-Alert System, an emergency notification platform that allows Town officials to immediately notify residents and businesses by telephone, email, and text of emergency situations which may impact our community. The Town of Wakefield offers translation in thirteen languages. This new system was installed in July 2025.

The OEM works closely with our School Department and, in 2025, coordinated CPR/AED training for staff in partnership with Cataldo Ambulance. The OEM has also been working with members of the school crisis team to conduct tabletop exercises on school safety within the district.

Other highlights include:

- Assisted the Fire Department with funding to transfer to a new fire-incident reporting system that will go into effect on January 1, 2026.
- Assisted the Health Department with funding for flu and COVID testing kits.
- Received the final payment from FEMA related to COVID administrative costs. This closed a long chapter in the Town of Wakefield's COVID response. A special note of thanks to DPW Director Joe Conway for his assistance in this work.

- Applied for the Emergency Management Performance Grant, which is generally awarded to the Town of Wakefield annually. We are still waiting on the State to release these funds.
- Coordinated safety plans with the Town Administrator and Public Safety teams for the annual carnival, Independence Day festivities, Town Day, and other local events.

Thomas P. Walsh Jr.
Emergency Management Director

REPORT OF THE INSPECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Building Division	
Building permits granted	**909**
Building inspections made	**1,236**
Inspections m/w fire prevention officer	**20**
Inspection of fire jobs	**6**
Request for zoning interpretation	**209**
Complaints investigated re: zoning bylaw	**81**
Sign permits issued	**29**
Single-family dwelling permits issued	**5**
Multiple-family dwelling permits issued	**1**
Two family dwelling	**3**
Accessory dwelling unit (ADU)	**6**
Buildings razed	**6**
Moved building	**1**
Swimming pool permits issued	**7**
Solar permits issued	**13**
Lodging house inspections	**10**
Nursing home inspections	**2**
Hotel inspections	**2**
Public school inspections	**10**
Day schools inspections	**16**
Certificate of occupancy permits issued	**144**
Certificate of inspection permits issued	**115**
Building permits fees collected	**$744,485.00**

Permit Valuations for the Last Six Years	
2020	$69,655,697.00
2021	$55,206,869.00
2022	$106,420,303.00
2023	$147,898,569.00
2024	$91,840,711.00
2025	$58,507,572.00

Plumbing Division	
Permits granted	404
Inspections made	630
Inspections approved	608
Meetings w/pipe fitters/plumbers on job	5
Plumbing permit fees collected	$37,245.00

Gas Division	
Permits granted	241
Inspections made	272
Inspections approved	266
Meeting w/pipe fitters/plumbers on job	1
Complaints investigated	1
Gas permit fees collected	$14,470.00

Wire Division	
Wire permits granted	554
Residential wire permits granted	428
Commercial and other wire permits granted	126
Inspections made	874
Inspections approved	855
Inspections m/w or requested by WMGLD	9
Inspections m/w or requested by Fire Department	1
Inspections after fire damage	1
Job meetings with electricians	33
Inspections of public buildings	14
Inspections of public schools	28
Inspections of hotels	3
Temporary service permits	10
New services – residential	13
New services – commercial or other	15
Service increases	69
Wire permit fees collected	$106,125.00

Total permit fees collected: $902,325.00

REPORT OF THE SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Summary of devices inspected and sealed 2025.

Scales under 100 lbs.	92
Scales 100 lbs. to 1,000 lbs.	4
Scales 1,001 lbs. to 10,000 lbs.	3
Scales over 10,000 lbs.	4
Gasoline and/or diesel meters	169
Reverse vending machines	3
Total number of devices inspected and sealed	275

McKenzie O'Keefe
Sealer of Weights and Measures

Health and Welfare

Reports of:
Health and Human Services
Housing Authority
Council on Aging
Commission on Disabilities
Human Rights Commission

REPORT OF THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

The Wakefield Health and Human Services (HHS) Department is part of a regional partnership with the City of Melrose and the Town of Stoneham. This collaboration includes shared staff positions and coordinates programming to better serve our communities. The Wakefield Board of Health, comprised of three members, meets monthly and as needed to establish policy, adopt regulations, and enforce local and state public health laws.

Over the past year, the Wakefield HHS Department has continued to focus on improving access to social services, strengthening coordination across service areas, and deepening our understanding of evolving community needs. Mental health, behavioral health, and access to social supports remain key priority areas. Through close collaboration with Town departments, community partners, and dedicated volunteers, the Department has worked to provide comprehensive and responsive services to Wakefield residents.

Introduction

The Wakefield Health Department remains committed to protecting and promoting the health and well-being of all residents. Throughout 2025, our team has advanced a wide range of public health initiatives, including youth substance use prevention, tobacco control, inspectional services, public health nursing, and social service coordination. This report highlights key accomplishments and metrics from the past year and reflects our continued efforts to support a healthy, safe, and connected community.

Prevention, Outreach, and Youth Services

Youth substance use prevention continues to be a cornerstone of our work. Under the leadership of our Prevention, Outreach, and Youth Services Manager, the Wake-UP Coalition remains a driving force for community engagement, education, and advocacy.

This work affects the entire community population by serving as a resource, liaising to multiple local and regional partners, collecting data to help inform evidence-based prevention and intervention strategies, communicating public health and prevention resources, translating the prevention science to be applied practically across the community, and most importantly, supporting all prevention, outreach, and youth services efforts in the community.

Key accomplishments:

- Hosted the annual Recovery and Remembrance Event, fostering awareness and reducing stigma surrounding addiction while supporting individuals in recovery
- Organized Parent University, a half-day educational conference in collaboration with Wakefield Public Schools and community partners
- Expanded programming to strengthen intergenerational connections and promote mental well-being

- Oversaw and administered opioid remediation funds to help those affected and their families
- Served as subject matter experts for the Board of Health on policies that protect the community against substances
- Served as the liaison to many important regional groups, such as the MA Alcohol Policy Coalition, Mystic Valley Public Health Coalition, and the Social Services Network Group
- Promoted youth civic engagement by advising the Youth Council.

Our Prevention and Wellness Coordinator leads the Youth Action Team, empowering youth to engage with legislators and advocate for stronger tobacco control policies.

Tobacco Control and Compliance
The regional tobacco control program, led by Maureen Buzby, continues to ensure strong compliance with state and local regulations while emphasizing education and prevention.

2025 metrics:

- Completed annual inspections at all tobacco-permitted establishments
- Conducted youth compliance checks to prevent underage sales of nicotine products
- Provided ongoing education and technical assistance to retailers and Boards of Health
- In addition to local efforts, served as a field trainer for new tobacco program managers and presented regularly on nicotine addiction prevention and enforcement strategies.

Inspectional Services
The Inspectional Services team plays a critical role in protecting public health through inspections, permitting, and code enforcement.

2025 metrics:

- 202 routine food inspections conducted
- 45 follow-up re-inspections completed
- 140 food establishment permits issued
- 5 food establishment plan reviews processed
- 351 dumpster permits issued
- 6 swimming pool permits issued

The team works collaboratively with local businesses and property owners to promote compliance and maintain high health and safety standards.

Public Health Nursing
The Senior Public Health Nurse (PHN) and the Wakefield Assistant Public Health Nurse (APHN) provide core functions for the community: health

promotion, harm reduction and the community Narcan program, summer recreational camp permitting (health and safety practices), management and oversight of vaccination clinics, and daily communicable disease monitoring.

- Health promotion: The nurses provide relevant and current health information to the community through the Wakefield Daily Item, the Town's website, social media, and at live events such as Town Day, the Farmer's Market, and Festival by the Lake. They participate in and support events sponsored by their Health and Human Services colleagues, other Town departments, and community partners. The nurses are a valuable resource available to residents to answer their public health related questions. They also work on campaigns to raise awareness about health issues such as skin cancer, heart health, and tick-borne diseases.
    - Nurses provide support to the Senior Center Director when requested and provide education and current health materials to the Center's volunteer nurses, who provide weekly blood pressure screenings. The Health Department nurses, working with the Senior Center Director, ophthalmology researcher Michael Sandberg, PhD, and the Lions Club, secured use of a retinal camera and the screening services of Dr. Sandberg. The camera is able to capture, without eye drops, digital images to screen for treatable retinal and optic nerve disease like age-related macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, and glaucoma. The screening service is ongoing and provided by appointment at the Center to anyone age five years and older and at no cost. Readable images are emailed to individuals or to their designees, which can then be forwarded to their ophthalmologists or PCPs for medical interpretation. Dr. Sandberg will also be providing education and information talks on eye health as it relates to seniors at the Center.
- Harm reduction: Since Narcan (Naloxone) nasal spray was removed from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's list of controlled substances in December 2024, the nurses have expanded efforts to provide education and prevent overdose deaths. Special boxes containing four doses of Narcan have been installed at all of the Town of Wakefield's public buildings. Additionally, training by the nurses has been provided to Town employees regarding how to recognize signs of an overdose and the use of Narcan to prevent overdose death. Narcan, education regarding its use, and the resources available to assist individuals and families is also available at the Health and Human Services Department by nurses and other Department staff.
    - Public Health Nurses oversee and maintain the sharps disposal program for residents at the Health and Human Services office and provide education regarding disposal of medication to residents.
- Camps: The Public Health Nurses conducted a mandatory training with camp representatives to review new policies and procedures and ensure compliance with state regulations. This year's training focused on health and safety issues, specifically the role of the camps' licensed health care

consultant in the training and testing of camp staff to assure competency in performing duties related to medication administration; storage and handling; documentation and awareness of medication side effects and adverse reactions; and other regulatory requirements as it relates to the health and safety of children attending permitted camps in Wakefield.

- Flu vaccinations: During the fall and winter, the nurses provide management, clinic planning and staffing, vaccine supply management, and coordination of administrative/billing information for all clinics. This included school staff vaccinations by the school nurses, large public clinics, Town employee clinics, in-office clinics, and visits to homebound individuals. Over 550 vaccinations were provided this flu season.
    - Wakefield Public Health Nurses improved clinic awareness by collaborating with Wakefield's Communications Department and the Department of Public Works to advertise through news outlets, social media, posters, web, and sidewalk and digital street signage.
- Communicable diseases: The Public Health Nurses work collaboratively and confidentially with residents, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Town Health Inspectors, private and state labs, hospital's infectious disease staff, school nurses and staff, other city and town health departments, local businesses, restaurants, and congregate living facilities to provide support and follow-up to those affected by a communicable disease, and to limit harm to others who may have been exposed. Each day, the nurses perform required investigations and follow-up for State-reported and resident-reported communicable diseases, including but not limited to: TB; hepatitis; food- and water-borne illnesses; Lyme and other tick diseases; and pertussis, especially in the school setting. The nurses also monitor the number of COVID and influenza cases, among others diseases. Public Health Nurses participate in biweekly webinars and other educational opportunities to increase knowledge and understanding of communicable diseases in order to improve the health of the Wakefield community. They continue to monitor H5N1 (bird flu), measles, and TB outbreaks in other states.

Social Services Coordination

In 2025, the Social Services Coordinator played a crucial role in assisting 140 families and individuals in accessing essential services, including food and clothing assistance, transportation support, housing and rent assistance, heating and utility aid, and other critical social services. These efforts have significantly contributed to improving the quality of life for vulnerable community members.

Human Services and Grants

Wakefield participates in the Mystic Valley Public Health Coalition, including Malden, Medford, Melrose, Reading, Stoneham, Wakefield, and Winchester. The Regional Substance Use Prevention Grant provides $125,000 to help fund initiatives such as the Youth Risk Behavior Survey and other regional prevention strategies.

REPORT OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Wakefield Housing Authority (WHA) has been providing housing for low-income elders, families, and the disabled since 1963. The WHA programs are regulated and funded by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC) and by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The WHA manages several properties and housing assistance programs.

- Harts Hill: a state development featuring 116 one-bedroom units for elderly and disabled residents.
- Elm and Nelly Street: a state family development consisting of eight two-bedroom units.
- Crystal View: A federal building with forty one-bedroom units for elderly and disabled residents.
- Lincoln School: Mass Housing oversees the project-based Section 8 funding for ten one-bedroom units and fifteen congregate units for elderly and disabled residents.
- WHA also manages a Massachusetts Mobile Voucher Program that services fifty Department of Mental Health consumers.
- The 689 House at Harts Hill provides nine residents with housing through a contract with the Department of Developmental Services.
- Harts Hill Heights offers twenty-two one-bedroom units of federally funded supportive elderly housing that is managed by the WHA.
- Section 8 (Housing Choice Voucher Program): The WHA has 378 vouchers in our program that provide rental assistance to individuals who live in private housing.

The Authority facilitated improvements to our state portfolio utilizing capital funding from EOHLC. The Harts Hill Development saw a new fire alarm panel and system upgrade and hallway electrical panels replaced in 2025. The WHA capital program is actively in the process of several planned projects for 2026, which include concrete step repairs, new exterior doors on Woodbury Road, asphalt paving of some walkways at Harts Hill, and an ADA bathroom upgrade at our 689 House.

The lack of low-income housing options in the state continues to result in lengthy waiting lists for all our programs. Additionally, HUD funding is a concern for the WHA. The Section 8 Program had a decrease in funding in 2025 which has limited assisting new families. We are working daily to ensure continued assistance to our current participants.

The WHA office and maintenance staff are committed to providing the Wakefield community with excellent service. Administrative staff includes Maureen Hickey, Executive Director; Christine Walsh, Housing Manager; Mary Lou Roche, Finance Manager; Stephanie Gallo, Director of Leased Housing; Jessica Rivera, Leased Housing Specialist; Frances Marshall, Administrative and Maintenance Assistant; Beth Greenberg, Tenant Services

Coordinator and Family Self-Sufficiency Coordinator. Joseph Ventura, our Maintenance Supervisor, as well as Jack McTighe, Mark Drees, James Cresta, and John Evangelista maintain the WHA properties.

The WHA is thankful for our federal, state, and local partners. The WHA is especially grateful for the relationships with Wakefield's Town departments. Without this collaborative effort, we would not be able to continue our mission of providing safe, decent, and affordable housing for our residents.

The WHA is overseen by a Board of Commissioners that holds regular public meetings, typically on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 4 p.m. at the Crystal View Apartments Community Room at 101 Broadway. The current Commissioners are Sarah Fowler, Chair; Joseph Dorney, Vice Chair; Charles Geier, Treasurer; Karen DeJoie, Commissioner; and Nancy Dillon, Commissioner.

Additional information about the WHA housing programs, finances, and applications is available on our website: www.wakefieldhousesing.org. The WHA office is in the Lincoln School at 26 Crescent Street and can be contacted at 781-245-7328.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON AGING

The mission of the Council on Aging (COA) is to advocate for, promote, and support the social, health, and economic well-being of Wakefield residents age 60 and over. The Council fulfills this mission through education, outreach, and comprehensive programming. The Council on Aging's municipal staff worked in collaboration with the Wakefield Council on Aging Board, composed of seven volunteer members, to deliver programming and resources for the Town's older adults.

Wakefield is a member of Mystic Valley Elder Services, which partners with local councils and residents to address aging-related needs. Through this partnership, Meals on Wheels and the Senior Center's congregate lunch programs are administered. Congregate meals expanded this year, and are now offered three times weekly, with approximately 1,200 meals served annually.

We continue to provide a wide range of programming, including lifelong learning, health and fitness classes, cards and games, expanded transportation services, outreach and resource access, and social activities. Renovations to the second and third floors of the Senior Center were completed, and a grand opening was held in the spring. Full use of the renovated space began in October. Summer programming was limited due to a lack of air conditioning; however, the Town secured State funding to install air conditioning, allowing for year-round use moving forward. The Veterans Services Officer relocated to a newly renovated second-floor office, providing a welcoming, comfortable space for veterans and their families.

The COA received a Service Incentive Grant from the Executive Office of Aging and Independence and the Massachusetts Council on Aging for FY2026 (expended in calendar year 2025). Grant funds were used to install sound panels in the renovated third-floor space, significantly improving acoustics and enhancing its suitability for presentations, performances, and fitness classes.

Transportation remains a vital service. In 2025, we provided over 5,000 rides to more than 150 riders for medical appointments, wellness visits, shopping, and Senior Center programs. The COA maintains two vehicles and employs five dedicated drivers. Capital funding was approved for a new wheelchair-accessible van, which has been ordered, expanding our capacity to transport members of our community. The new addition will extend our fleet to include two vehicles capable of transporting wheelchairs.

Fitness programming continues to be highly utilized. More than fifteen weekly classes were offered for all ability levels, with over 450 individuals participating and more than 13,000 total class attendances recorded throughout the year.

Our partnership with The Room to Write continued through the spring, offering creative writing opportunities for seniors and veterans. Although the organization went on hiatus in early summer, one member continues to lead a twice-monthly writing group as a volunteer for the Center.

The year again featured the highly successful Seniors to Seniors program, sponsored by The Savings Bank. The program pairs Wakefield High School seniors with older residents to document and share their life stories, which are published in The Daily Item newspaper. More than twenty students participated this year.

We continued to offer chartered field trips in partnership with the Stoneham COA, working with All Around New England to coordinate travel. An overnight trip to New York City was offered in collaboration with Best of Times Travel.

Educational and enrichment programs remained strong. An eight-week beginner Spanish class led to the formation of a weekly Spanish Club. Informational presentations were offered on health care, disease management, insurance, scam prevention, and estate planning. Ongoing creative programs included weekly art classes, wood carving, Create and Converse on Converse, and the Clever Hands group, whose quilters produced numerous Quilts of Valor for local veterans. Cards and games remain popular, with participants enjoying the new dedicated gaming space.

Outreach and resource access continue to be priorities. Representatives from Lynn Economic Opportunity assisted residents with fuel assistance applications during heating season, staff were trained to process Good Neighbor applications, and outreach efforts were conducted in partnership with the Health Department and WMGLD. AARP volunteers returned to prepare free tax returns for eligible seniors and SHINE counselors assisted more than 120 seniors during Medicare Open Enrollment. We also offered an educational session to help participants navigate Medicare plan selection on their own utilizing Medicare's website.

Our Outreach Coordinator met individually with residents regarding assisted living, in-home care, MassHealth, and related concerns. We continued our partnership with the Wakefield Youth Council and Youth Action Team for the Snow Angels program, providing more than twenty seniors with shoveling services after snow storms. The Senior Tax Work-Off Program employed seventeen seniors across various Town departments. The program offers $750 in property tax relief to seniors completing fifty hours of work service for the Town.

The Veterans Services Officer hosted monthly veteran coffee socials at the Senior Center, fostering camaraderie and sharing information about available services. The COA also continued to be a member in good standing of the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities.

The Council successfully completed a cycle of improvement and was recognized for its age-friendly leadership, achievements, and continuing commitment toward being a livable community for people of all ages.

Special events were well attended throughout the year. The Annual St. Patrick's Celebration was made possible through the generosity of Brightview Senior Living of Wakefield. The Delvena Theatre Company performances returned with funding from the Wakefield Cultural Council. The year concluded with the Annual Holiday Party, where seventy-five seniors enjoyed a catered meal and entertainment, including a performance by the POMS dance class.

The COA received $99,260 in grant funding from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs for FY2025. Funding is allocated based on the population aged 60 and over and supports a portion of the Activities Coordinator's salary, exercise instructors, membership dues to the Massachusetts Council on Aging, newsletter postage, and other programming expenses.

Overall, 2025 was an active and successful year, with more than 20,000 sign-ins and 40,000 hours of participation in programs and services. We look forward to building on this momentum and continuing to expand and enhance services for Wakefield's older adults.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

The Commission held eleven meetings and continues to actively monitor the Town's progress toward addressing the ongoing accessibility challenges that leave the Albion Cultural Exchange (ACE) building inaccessible to individuals with many mobility disabilities. Also this year, member Judy Tanner virtually attended the DPH Health and Disability Program on the Intersection of Black Identity and Disability. The Commission addressed and resolved a resident request for accessible parking signs at the head of the three designated accessible parking spots at Narsella Field. We also continued collaboration with the Town's ADA Coordinator, making sure accessible parking spaces are well marked for events at the Lake and around town.

Members of the Commission were present at several events throughout the year, including Town Administrator Steve Maio's retirement celebration on June 1 at the Americal Civic Center, Town Day, and the Halloween party at the Senior Center. We also planned, sponsored, and staffed a "Diverse Abilities Game Day" event on October 5 at the Boys and Girls Club.

Other highlights include:

- Completed an Open Town Meeting Law training video presented by Town Counsel Tom Mullen
- Member Marie Rej elected to serve as the liaison from the Commission on Disabilities to the Wakefield Housing Trust
- Used disability access-designated funding from the Town for an accessible pathway and an accessible picnic table at Col. Connelly Park
- Proposed the idea of creating an accessible pathway from the public sidewalk to/around the lower common bandstand to allow community members with disabilities to access the many events that take place there
- Requested an additional designated accessible parking spot on Common Street to let vehicles park in a way that provides the disabled person access to the sidewalk rather than the traffic
- Met with the new Town Administrator to introduce Commission's work
- Inquired about the proposed hearing system for the new high school to allow students, parents, educators, and staff who have a hearing loss to connect to an audio system
- Addressed mobility access at the Galvin School when the electronic push-plate on the exterior door is malfunctioning
- Contacted Representative Lipper-Garabedian to re-locate her Office Hours session from the ACE building to an accessible location.

REPORT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

The Wakefield Human Rights Commission presents programs, hosts events, and posts on its Facebook page to foster a greater understanding and appreciation for diversity. We provide information about cultural practices and national commemorations such as Martin Luther King Day and Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage month. In addition, we participate in the Farmer's Market, Town Day, and other Town-wide events.

We are actively building a network of allies both within and outside of Wakefield who share our mission to promote the civil and human rights of all people. As is timely and appropriate, we share these resources to members of our community who need support.

In 2025, we presented the following:

- January 20, 2025: a celebration of Martin Luther King Day and the presentation of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King Service Award.
- February 8, 2025: we continued our celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King in partnership with the Wakefield Youth Council with a Give Warmth community service project.
- March 6, 2025: we hosted a Q&A session with a panel of women to celebrate International Women's Day.
- May 18, 2025: we held our first Asian Art and Food Truck Festival at the Americal Civic Center to celebrate Asian and Pacific Islander month with food, Asian-inspired art, and performances.
- June 2, 2025: we hosted the Pride Month commemoration on the steps of the Americal Civic Center. The event featured raising the Pride Progress Flag, music from Wakefield High School's acapella group Voices of Steel, and guest speakers Town Councilor Stacey Constas; Peter Konrad, Board President of NAGLY; Jenn Garber, SpeakOut; Senator Jason Lewis; and Reverend Brett R. Johnson from the Emmanuel Episcopal Church.
- June 18, 2025: we hosted the Juneteenth Commemoration on the steps of the Americal Civic Center. The event featured the Juneteenth flag raising by special guests from the Lynn English High School Junior ROTC. Attendees enjoyed music from singer Janey David, poetry from Michelle La Poetica, and reflections from speakers Senator Jason Lewis and State Representative Kate Lipper-Garabedian.

MAINTENANCE

Report of:
Public Works Department and Divisions

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The Department of Public Works (DPW) is made up of twelve divisions and is responsible for maintaining the Town's infrastructure and facilities related to public ways, parks and public grounds, Town cemeteries, the water distribution system, water treatment, the sewer collection system, public shade trees, Town buildings, weights and measures, Town vehicles, and the Town drainage system. In addition, the Department provides essential services such as refuse collection and disposal, recycling and yard waste collection, street sweeping, snow and ice removal, and support for other Town departments and civic events. The mission of the Department of Public Works is to deliver efficient, effective, and cost-conscious services to the residents of Wakefield. The Department looks forward to another productive and healthy year in 2026.

For more detailed information about the accomplishments of each division, please refer to the individual divisional reports. The Department of Public Works would also like to extend special thanks to the following team members for their support throughout the year and for their assistance in preparing this report: Ann Waitt, Business Manager; William Renault, P.E., Town Engineer and ADA Coordinator; Christopher Hunt, Field Operations Manager; Christopher Pierce, Buildings Manager; Lou Perriello, Highway Supervisor; Andrew Shankhour, Fleet Maintenance Supervisor; Dennis P. Fazio, Forestry, Parks, and Cemetery Supervisor; Steve Fitzpatrick, Water and Sewer Supervisor.

Joseph Conway
Director of Public Works

ENGINEERING DIVISION

The Engineering Division participates in and manages many Town infrastructure maintenance and improvement projects. Engineering staff perform a full range of engineering services including technical reviews, survey, design, digital system mapping, data management, cost estimating, project bidding and construction management. The Division provides technical support to all Town departments, divisions, and boards, and serves as a technical advisor/reviewer to the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, and Zoning Board of Appeals. The Division also reviews and oversees all construction activities within the Town's public rights of way. The Division procures and manages the services of engineering consultants for Town projects when the level of effort exceeds Division staff availability, or where a particular expertise is required.

The following are the Division's accomplishments for 2025:

Road Projects: The Engineering Division performed design, bidding, and construction oversight for 2.27 miles of roadway rehabilitation. The work included 1.29 miles of mill and overlay treatment on White Circle,

Cordis Street (Main Street to Pleasant Street), Central Street (Main Street to Pleasant Street), Hopkins Street (Brook Street to Town line), Brook Street, South Street, and Salem Street (#370 Salem Street to Montrose Avenue). It initiated 0.84 miles of reclaim treatment on Green Street (Main Street to Dillaway Street), Dillaway Street (Green Street to Upland Road), Upland Road (Dillaway Street to Sidney Street), Sidney Street (Upload Road to #39 Sidney Street), Houston Street, Eaton Street (Crescent Street to Pleasant Street), Juniper Avenue, and Sweetser Street (Main Street to Pleasant Street). The Division completed 0.14 miles of overlay treatment on Dillaway Street (Upland Road to Sidney Street) and Sidney Street (#39 Sidney Street to Dillaway Street).

Sidewalk Projects: The Engineering Division performed design, bidding, and construction oversight for 1.85 miles of sidewalk construction. Replacement of 0.31 miles of sidewalk was completed on Green Street, White Circle, Cordis Street, Houston Street, Eaton Street, Eustis Avenue, Juniper Avenue, and Sweetser Street. Additionally, 1.54 miles of new sidewalk expansion was completed on Hopkins Street (utilizing MassWorks grant funds), Prospect Street, Parker Road, and Oak Street. Fifty-nine ADA-compliant curb ramps were installed within the 2025 sidewalk bid's scope of work.

Sewer Projects: DPW's inflow/infiltration (I/I) program identifies areas where clean groundwater or drainage is discharged to the sewer system. Removal of I/I lowers the Town's MWRA assessment, as the clean water will not be included in the sewer arriving at MWRA's Deer Island Treatment Plant. In 2025, the Engineering Division contracted with Weston and Sampson to initiate the design of the Year 6 program. Construction of the Year 6 program is expected to begin in spring 2026 and remove approximately 10,000 gallons per day of I/I flow.

Water Projects: The Engineering Division performed design and bidding services for the 2025 Water Main Improvement Project. The project proposes to replace approximately 1.66 miles of water main on Aborn Avenue, Court Street, Emerson Street, Gould Street, and Main Street (from Lowell Street to Salem Street). Construction will begin in spring 2026.

Drainage Projects: The Engineering Division performed design, bidding, and construction oversight for the reconstruction of 983 linear feet of drainage pipe and installation of twenty-two drainage structures on Salem Street, Pheasantwood Drive, Elm Street, and Grafton Street.

NPDES MS4 Program: The Engineering Division completed the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) MS4 Permit Year 7 annual reporting to the Environmental Protection Agency. Major permit accomplishments within Permit Year 7 included site plan and stormwater review for two new projects and construction-period environmental monitoring for six ongoing construction projects meeting NPDES and/or Stormwater Bylaw thresholds. The Division continued dry-weather screening

for ninety-seven outfalls and wet-weather screening and sampling for thirty-one outfalls. The team also completed thirty-five catchment investigations.

Broadway Quad Gate: The Division awarded the design for railroad crossing enhancements for the Broadway Crossing. The design and construction of the project is funded through a grant with the Federal Rail Administration (FRA). Construction is anticipated to begin in 2027. The project is being undertaken to improve Wakefield's FRA Quiet Zone compliance.

Veterans Field/Hall Park Bathroom: The Division continued oversight of the design team for the installation of a new two-stall bathroom at Hall Park. The modular building construction began in 2025 and is delivery is expected in 2026. Construction is expected to be competed for a 2026 occupancy.

Oak St./Green St./Greenwood Ave. Intersection: The Division completed conceptual design and public outreach for the MassDOT grant funded intersection re-alignment project. In the fall of 2025, the Division deployed a flex post mock-up of the new alignment to allow for real world observation of the new turning movements and to obtain resident feedback prior finalizing the project's design. The Division will complete final design, bidding, and construction of the project in 2026.

Envision Wakefield Downtown Revitalization Project: The Division continued the management of two design consultants for the Downtown Revitalization project. The project proposes streetscape, multimodal, and traffic enhancements on Main Street between Salem and North Ave; Common Street, from Church Street to Lafayette Street; and Water Street, from Main Street to Smith Street. The 25 percent design submittals for the two project phases are expected to be filed with MassDOT in spring 2026 to support state construction funding in the early 2030s.

Wakefield Rail-to-Trail: The Division continued the management of the project's design consultant for the remaining sections of the Wakefield Rail-to-Trail from Salem Street to Fosters Lane. The project is advancing toward the 75 percent design phase and is expected to receive state construction funding in the early 2030s.

Miscellaneous Engineering Projects:

- Right-of-Way Permitting: The Division performed application review and field inspection for 142 right-of-way and utility permits. Right-of-way and utility permits are required for any project completed by any private contractor that will disturb the Town's right of way, including paving/patching, water/sewer extensions, and/or connections and drainage work.
- Building Department/ZBA/Planning Board Permit Support: The Engineering Division performed eleven building permit reviews, two site plan reviews for the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA), thirty-five ZBA special permit reviews, and one definitive subdivision review for the Planning Board in 2025.

- **Graphic Information System (GIS) Mapping:** GIS staff continued updating utility accuracy and connectivity for the Town's digital mapping/ GIS system. During 2025, attention focused on adding historical water gate data and utility easements. Staff also began final testing of a new cemetery records management system. The system will incorporate a more efficient management and billing component and deliver a new online platform. The viewer is expected to go live in 2026. Additionally, the Division continued work on the following Asset Management Grants: water service material mapping, sewer service location mapping, and a culvert inventory and assessment.

FLEET MAINTENANCE DIVISION

The Fleet Maintenance Division is responsible for the repair and maintenance of over 190 motorized assets owned and operated by the Department of Public Works, Police Department, Fire Department, School Department, Information Technology Department, and Council on Aging. All routine maintenance, preventative maintenance, and corrective maintenance and repair are handled in house, with a small percentage of specialized work completed by outside vendors. The Fleet Maintenance Division is also responsible for assisting Town departments writing specifications for annual fleet capital planning and acquisitions.

In addition to providing for the fleet, the Division also manages the Town's in-house fueling operation, ensuring gasoline and diesel fuel are available to all Town Departments. The Division, when required, delivers essential services like refuse collection and disposal, recycling and yard waste collection, street sweeping, snow and ice removal, and support for other Town departments and civic events.

BUILDINGS DIVISION

The Buildings Division of the Department of Public Works is responsible for the maintenance and operation of forty-six school and Town buildings. The inventory of buildings includes major facilities such as Town Hall, the Public Works garage, Senior Center, all schools, and the Public Safety Building. The Division is also responsible for minor facilities such as storage and field-bathroom buildings.

Over 800 requests for service were completed in 2025. Notable highlights for the year include masonry repair of the foundation at Town Hall and interior painting; installation of new carpeting in three administrative rooms, all dormitories, and the day room at Fire Headquarters; installation of a new rubber roof on the second floor of the Senior Center; a new basement epoxy floor covering at the Civic Center; and ceiling fan replacements at the Galvin Middle School.

In addition to these highlights, the Buildings Division also provided custodial service to nine facilities, assisted in set up and logistics for civic events, removed snow and ice from fourteen facilities; and assisted in refuse and recycling collection during the mid-summer trash strike.

FORESTRY AND PARK DIVISION

The Forestry Division is responsible for planting, pruning, spraying, and removal of public shade trees on public property throughout the Town, with extensive work done seasonally around Lake Quannapowitt. The Parks Division is responsible for the proper maintenance of the upper and lower commons, all parks, playgrounds, athletic fields, and many roadside areas, including twenty-two islands. This Division maintains over 100 acres of parks and recreational land under the Public Works jurisdiction and is responsible for rubbish removal at all parks, school fields, and downtown areas. The Division is also responsible for cleaning and grooming the Town's four synthetic fields and is involved in the setup and cleanup for major events and athletic games. The Division removed 104 shade trees and planted 116 shade trees in 2025.

Staff performed winter sidewalk plowing; maintained nineteen school sand barrels; cleaned and refurbished the filter berm on Lake Quannapowitt; maintained thirteen playgrounds and thirteen ball fields; executed 21.52 miles of field line painting; performed seasonal roadside mowing; and collected 106.5 tons of trash from public parks. The Division also maintained the Wakefield Dog Park; earned the Tree City USA Award distinction (23 years); completed a digital public shade tree inventory; provided Christmas tree pick up; hung light-pole banners in our downtown; and oversaw the Town-wide goose control program.

CEMETERY DIVISION

The Cemetery Division is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Forest Glade Cemetery on Lowell Street and the historic cemetery on Church Street. The seasonal tasks of lawn and tree trimming, as well as planting, have grown each year. Digital record conversion and the mapping project for Forest Glade Cemetery is in its final testing phase and on pace to be online in 2026. This Division maintains the property and installs all foundations, government plaques, markers, and government stones.

HIGHWAY DIVISION

The Highway Division is responsible for the maintenance and care of approximately 115 miles of roadway throughout the Town of Wakefield. The Highway Division's work ensures that roadways, sidewalks, drainage systems, and public spaces remain safe, functional, and well maintained for residents and visitors. The Highway Division completed over 2,000 requests for service this year.

In addition to roadway upkeep, the Division oversees drainage system maintenance, including catch basin cleaning and repair; sidewalk repair and replacement; street sign installation and maintenance; street sweeping operations; refuse, recycling, and yard waste collection and disposal; operation of the Nahant Street Yard Waste Facility; Town-wide line painting, including crosswalks, stop bars, center and fog lines, and parking areas.

Traffic Markings and Line Painting included: 87,800 liner feet of 4" single and double centerlines; 146,998 linear feet of 4" edge lines; 22,480 linear feet of 12" crosswalk and stop lines; 22,840 linear feet of crosswalk centers, eighty-eight directional arrows, eight railroad crossings, thirty-six 8-foot "only" markings; six 8-foot "school" markings; and four traffic circles.

Infrastructure Maintenance: Completed 3,300 linear feet of asphalt sidewalk improvements; 2,000 linear feet of concrete sidewalks, and 400 linear feet of asphalt berm.

Drain and Catch Basin Improvements: thirty-six drain manholes repaired and/or replaced; 2,600+ catch basins cleaned; twenty-six catch basins repaired and/or replaced, and eighty-three requests for culvert and brook cleanings completed. Routine inspections are conducted weekly and after significant weather events, as required.

Sweeping Program: The Highway Division Street Sweeping Program operates, weather dependent, from April through November to reduce pollutants from entering the stormwater system. Each spring and fall, Town staff and hired contractors sweep the entire Town. Approximately fifty-five miles were swept weekly during the course of the year.

Nahant Street Yard Waste Facility: The Yard Waste Facility operates every Wednesday (April through November) and on scheduled weekends for residential disposal of leaves and brush. This year over, 60,000 cubic yards of leaves and 10,000 yards of compost were processed through the site.

WATER DIVISION

In 2025, the Town of Wakefield distributed approximately 743 million gallons of water from two sources: the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) and the Town's Broadway Water Treatment Facility utilizing Crystal Lake. The Water Division operates and maintains the Broadway Water Treatment Plant, Linden Street Pumping Station, Montclaire Avenue Booster Station, Sidney Street Booster Station, and the Sidney Street Water Storage Standpipe. Approximately 9,000 water meters are read per billing quarter (36,000 annually).

Water Distribution System: The Division is responsible for approximately 110 miles of water main and all required water-quality monitoring and reporting in compliance with Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) regulations. Water Division personnel regularly

participate in training and certification programs to expand their expertise and strengthen the Department's professional capabilities. In 2025, the Department completed over 1,000 water meter system upgrades and replaced or installed more than fifteen fire hydrants, strengthening system reliability and fire protection town-wide. The Department also completed select water main replacement work in-house, allowing important infrastructure improvements to be made while reducing reliance on outside contractors. Ongoing responsibilities include water main repairs, leak detection, system flushing, valve exercising, hydrant inspections and winterizing, contractor inspections, Dig Safe mark-outs, pressure-reducing valve maintenance, watershed inspections, water main disinfection and testing, and participating in the Town's snow and ice removal program.

Water Quality and Treatment: The Broadway Water Treatment Plant is operated by state-certified treatment plant operators. Treatment processes include intake screening, fluoridation, slow sand filtration, disinfection, and pH adjustment to ensure safe drinking water. The Department conducts weekly bacteriological sampling at eleven locations throughout the distribution system, along with all additional regulatory testing mandated by the DEP. The Division consistently and actively tests water quality to ensure safe, clean, quality water is being delivered to our consumers. An active cross-connection control program remains in place to protect the public water supply.

Emergencies: For emergencies, residents may contact the Wakefield Water and Sewer Division 24 hours a day at 781-246-6318.

SEWER DIVISION

The Sewer Division is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Town's wastewater collection system. The system consists of approximately ninety-five miles of sewer main and an estimated 8,500 service connections. Routine maintenance is performed to ensure reliable operation, minimize service interruptions, and prevent system backups or overflows. Typical activities include sewer main flushing and jetting, root cutting and treatment, repair and rehabilitation of manholes and structures, Dig Safe mark-outs, pipe repairs, and inspections of new sewer installations and contractor work.

In 2025, the Department placed a new Vactor-Jetter truck into service, significantly improving the Division's ability to perform cleaning, maintenance, and emergency response operations throughout the sewer system. The Sewer Division also continues to complete a number of in-house infrastructure projects, including the installation of new sewer mains and improvements to aging components of the collection system.

Pumping / Lift Stations: The wastewater system includes nine pumping and lift stations located throughout the Town located on Farm Street, West Park Drive, Plaza Road, Findlay Street, Audubon Road, Bay State Road, Lakeview Avenue, Main Street at Central Street, and Spaulding Street. These stations

collect wastewater from lower elevations and pump it to higher points in the system where flow can continue by gravity. Routine maintenance of pumps, controls, alarms, and equipment is performed to ensure reliable operation.

Inflow and Infiltration (I&I): The Department continues to work with the Engineering Division and consulting engineers to identify and reduce inflow and infiltration (I&I) within the system. Removing extraneous groundwater and stormwater from the collection system helps prevent system surcharging, reduce operating costs, and lower the volume of wastewater discharged to the MWRA system.

Emergencies: For emergencies, residents may contact the Wakefield Water and Sewer Division 24 hours a day at 781-246-6318.

EDUCATION

Reports of:
Wakefield Public Schools
Lucuis Beebe Memorial Library
Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational School

REPORT OF WAKEFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Wakefield is a thriving community and an exceptional place to raise a family, due in large part to the dedication and professionalism of the faculty and staff of Wakefield Public Schools (WPS). Families are drawn to Wakefield for its outstanding public schools and strong community. Our schools, along with our athletics, music, and extracurricular programs, rank among the best in the state. We are also on schedule to open a new high school in January 2027, which will bring significant campus improvements, including new athletic fields, expanded parking, and safer, more efficient traffic patterns for our young drivers.

Guided by the WPS vision, mission, and instructional strategy, we cultivate a supportive and engaging learning environment. Our vision is to develop confident, lifelong learners who embody respect and compassion. Our mission is to prepare students for success in college, career, and community through a rigorous curriculum, high-quality instruction, and personalized learning experiences. Each day, we inspire curiosity, a love of learning, and continuous growth.

WPS students are developing strong self-regulation skills, learning how they learn, recognizing their strengths, and committing to ongoing improvement. They understand that success requires dedication, whether in academics, the arts, or athletics. Our educators excel at individualizing instruction and building inclusive classroom communities where every student feels valued, challenged, and supported.

The Wakefield Memorial High School (WMHS) faculty and staff developed the Vision of a Graduate to guide our work at the secondary level.

Student Achievement and State Recognition
Wakefield Public Schools continues to demonstrate strong student performance and instructional effectiveness. In 2025, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Commissioner of Education recognized Wakefield for gains in literacy and mathematics on the MCAS assessments. Wakefield was one of only thirteen districts and schools statewide supporting students to perform at or above pre-pandemic assessment levels, highlighting the dedication and expertise of our educators and the resilience of our students.

Curriculum and Special Education Improvements
Wakefield Public Schools has invested significantly in high quality instructional materials to ensure equitable, research-based and standards-aligned curriculum and instruction for our students. This work will continue over the next several years with a heavy focus on K-8 curriculum cohesion to build a strong foundation for our students before they begin their path towards college and career readiness at Wakefield Memorial High School. In the 26-27 school year, we will make shifts to our curriculum leadership teams to focus on the specific goals and priorities at each level. Systems for intervention and enrichment continue to be developed and enhanced to

ensure that we are meeting the needs of all students and maximizing their potential. Our focused work in general education curriculum and instruction has supported our efforts in special education. As we refer students to special education, we are able to provide specific data related to curriculum, intervention, and response to instruction, which allows us to better determine the specially designed instruction that is needed when a student qualifies for special education.

In addition to the support we are providing students with disabilities in the general education classroom, we continue to provide specific learning opportunities in small group or 1:1 settings, as needed, to close achievement gaps. We have invested in targeted training for instructional methodologies and work to make connections to the general education curriculum as much as possible to streamline our work. When our students need more intensive support, we have been able to respond appropriately. We have prioritized the development of in-district special education programs to meet the needs of our students presenting with language-based learning disabilities, autism, intellectual disabilities, and social/emotional needs. These programs are intensive, rooted in best practice, and aligned across all levels so families can be assured that there will not be an interruption in programming.

The Doyle Early Childhood Center continues to be a source of great pride for our district. Our youngest, and sometimes most vulnerable, students are supported in a safe and nurturing environment that allows them to receive the academic and therapeutic support they need to thrive, while learning alongside their Wakefield friends. We have worked hard to meet the demand of our registration. We have consistently filled all of our classes at Doyle for the past several years, prompting the addition of two more classes for our three- and four-year-old students at the Woodville School. We are continuing to assess the needs of our community and build this into future planning. With the number of Doyle Ducklings on the rise, it is a wonderful opportunity to align instruction where we can and ensure that our students are as prepared for kindergarten as possible.

Kindergarten preparation continues each summer with our Early Literacy Academy. Each August for the past five years, we have invited all of our registered kindergarten students to a week of fun learning and preparation. Our students get the chance to meet their teachers and classmates and get to know their new school ahead of the school year. We know kindergarten is a big transition for our students and families. Our Early Literacy Academy supports a strong start for all.

Fiscal Context and Cost Drivers

Many of these financial obligations for special education and student services are required by federal and state law. The rising costs in contractual increases, transportation, utilities, and student support services are essential. Special education, transportation, and student services are fixed, with increases that have been passed through by private placements and vendors to the municipality and cannot be reduced.

The cost drivers for FY27 are undergirded by increased health care expenses, rising transportation and bus costs, growing special education needs, and the ongoing obligation to provide faculty and staff with a sustainable, living wage. These investments are essential to maintaining high-quality programming, student supports, and safe, effective school operations.

Moreover, the structural deficits in State support are becoming more pronounced annually with local costs increasing at a rate that is higher than the state will support. We will continue to apply for all state and federal grants to support our work, and to lessen the burden on the Town and to offset the costs to the community.

The Fiscal Year 2026 budget includes $300,000 from revolving offsets. The Fiscal Year 2027 budget includes $282,530 from revolving offsets.

Fiscal Year 2026

- Personnel: $46,776,559
- Contractual services: $6,626,928
- Materials and supplies: $2,021,674
- Total expenditures: $55,425,161

Fiscal Year 2027

- Personnel: $49,457,113
- Contractual services: $7,063,764
- Materials and supplies: $2,080,734
- Total expenditures: $58,601,611

The FY27 budget supports the WPS vision and mission in service to students, families, and the community. This work is carried out daily by 621 employees in seven bargaining units, serving 3,386 students and families with a range of talents and needs.

While we have made great strides, continued collaboration with the Town is essential to managing rising costs related to labor, safety protocols (including building and cybersecurity), and long-term facility planning to accommodate enrollment and climate changes.

We will be proposing a feasibility study for Greenwood Elementary in FY27 to address the growing enrollment, deficits in ADA accessibility, as well as heating and cooling the building. With the growth in housing units in Town, we have seen an increase in the demand for pre-K and elementary seats. We will keep the community up to date on this project.

We are honored to serve the students, families, and broader Wakefield community. We extend our sincere gratitude to the School Committee, Town Council, Finance Committee, and especially our faculty, staff, students, and families for their ongoing support.

Sincerely,
Douglas J. Lyons, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Wakefield Public Schools

REPORT OF SCHOOL DEPARTMENT BUDGET

2024-2025 Expenditures	
Personnel	$43,825,587
Contractual	$4,515,187
Materials	$1,919,189
Sundry	$30,894
Special Ed Tuitions	$1,983,527
Total	$52,274,384
Capital	$580,000
Transportation	$115,000

Grants
262: Early Childhood, $39,801
240: Federal Special Education Entitlement, $1,014,766
317: METCO, $521,239
140: Title IIA Teacher Quality, $48,400
305: Title I, $126,495
237: Coordinated Family and Community Engagement, $92,157
Circuit Breaker Special Education Reimbursement: $1,947,766

The year saw thirteen staff members retire from the system. We are indebted to those professionals for their years of service to not only the Wakefield Public Schools, but to the many students who passed through the doors.

Suzanne Burns
Dave Butler
Donna Delaney
Denise DiTonno
Nancy DiTullio
Debra Duggan
Donna Fallon
Paula Guttadauro
Janet Livesey
Amy McCarthy
Kenneth Malonson
Susan Molinari
Eleanor Yessaian

REPORT OF THE FACILITIES DEPARTMENT

Wakefield Memorial High School

- Significant progress has been made on the construction of the new High School, scheduled for occupancy in January 2027.
- The main boiler for the building has received significant maintenance due to failure.

Galvin Middle School

- New carpet has been installed throughout the auditorium.
- A new sound board has been installed in the auditorium.

Woodville School

- A new commercial water heater has been installed, which serves the entire building.

Dolbeare School

- The accordion dividers between the gym, cafeteria, and music areas have been brought back to 100 percent functionality.
- Significant exterior painting has been completed.
- A safety gate has been installed, limiting vehicle access to the rear playground spaces.

Greenwood School

- A new 600 amp electrical service has been installed in the building.
- The Wakefield Academy room floor has been repainted.

Walton School

- Approximately 18,000 square feet of sod has been installed in the play area adjacent to the new playground.
- Significant exterior painting has been completed.
- A safety gate has been installed, limiting vehicle access to the rear playground space.

Doyle School

- A new entrance door and enclosure has been installed at the side entrance adjacent to the bus drop-off area, funded by capital.
- A new 600 amp electrical service has been installed.

REPORT OF WAKEFIELD ACADEMY

Wakefield Academy currently serves 899 students in our WPS system. Our programming consists of academic support, social-emotional support, as well as physical activities such as games and age-appropriate social play. We are staffed by a variety of personnel including teachers, paraprofessionals,

nurses, students (college and high school), and former school employees. Each instructor brings a variety of experiences to the Academy and helps us deliver the best programming possible.

Wakefield Academy currently has a before- and after-school program at our four elementary schools and Doyle Early Childhood Center. Additionally, we have an after-school program at our Galvin Middle School.

In addition to our daily programming, we also offer enrichment opportunities for all Wakefield Public School pre-K to grade-eight students, which have a participation rate of 700+ students. These activities include teacher-led clubs, as well as Pedro's Judo, Kidcasso Art, Kids' Test Kitchen, Sports Zone 101, Wicked Cool Science, Chess Hero, Hip Kids, Build Wave, Junior Designer, Pottery, and CodeWiz. These activities have brought more than 250 non-Wakefield Academy students into our Wakefield Academy enrichment programming. We have received tremendous support for our new enrichment offerings this year and will continue seeking new partners throughout the spring to add to our summer and fall programs. Wakefield Academy has also partnered with WPS teachers to offer a Math Boost program for 147 grade one and grade two students. This program provides after school math support two times per week for six weeks using WPS math curriculum for our students who need a boost in their math skills.

We hold February, April, and WoW (Warriors of Wakefield) summer camp programs. Our February and April camps are offered for students in grades pre-K to grade four. Our WoW summer camp is offered to pre-K and rising K-to-grade-five students, and academic camps are offered to rising grades one-to-six students. Additionally, we have our summer enrichment program, which is open to grades K-to-eight. Our vacation camps offer social activities, programs, and presentations to engage all of our students. The WoW Summer program includes structured academic and social activities, as well as presentations for our pre-K through rising fifth-grade students. Programs are offered outside of the extended school year program and are available to all WPS students within the grade parameters noted. All programs strive to enrich the educational experience provided by our schools.

REPORT OF GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

The Wakefield Memorial High School (WMHS) guidance department assisted 210 students in graduating in June of 2025. They reached their post-secondary goal in various forms: 81 percent went on to four-year colleges, 7 percent to two-year colleges, 5 percent joined the workforce, and 7 percent went to trade school, prep school, or joined our armed forces. Two hundred twenty-six WMHS students took 462 advanced placement exams in twenty-four subject areas. Seventy-three percent of the students received a grade of three or better, which is worthy of college credits from the colleges they plan to attend.

The dropout rate for the school year 2023-2024 was 0.9 percent. The entire district staff and faculty work diligently to assist the guidance staff in developing successful four-year plans for all our students. Counselors attend special education and 504 team meetings, consult frequently with staff and administration, comprise the majority of intervention and crisis teams, and act as the primary contact with families and community support agencies.

During the spring of 2025, WMHS administered the SBIRT (Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment) screening to all ninth graders. SBIRT is intended to identify substance-use risk behaviors and to improve health, safety, resilience, and success in students. SBIRT screening requires a structured, 1:1 conversation between a trained school professional and a student to build trusting relationships around education, behavior, and support related to substance use.

- Screening quickly assesses the severity of substance use and identifies the appropriate level of treatment.
- Brief intervention focuses on increasing insight and awareness regarding substance use and motivation toward behavioral change.
- Referral to treatment provides those identified as needing more extensive treatment with access to specialty care.

On March 5, 2025, WMHS conducted S.O.S. (Signs of Suicide) screening for all eleventh graders. The program is a depression awareness and suicide prevention training that encourages students to seek help if they are concerned about themselves or a friend. The SOS Program is the only youth suicide prevention program that has demonstrated an improvement in students' knowledge and adaptive attitudes about suicide risk and depression, as well as a reduction in actual suicide attempts. Listed on Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices, the SOS Program has shown a reduction in self-reported suicide attempts by 40 to 64 percent in randomized control studies (Aseltine et al., 2007; Schilling et al., 2016). Our goals in participating in this program are straightforward:

- To help our students understand that depression is a treatable illness
- To explain that suicide is a preventable tragedy that often occurs as a result of untreated depression
- To provide students training in how to identify serious depression and potential suicide risk in themselves or others
- To impress upon youth that they can help themselves or others by talking to a trusted adult about their concerns
- To teach students who they can turn to at school for help, if they need it.

WMHS implemented an ongoing formal curriculum in which each student has an adult in the school, in addition to the school counselor, who knows the student well and assists the student in achieving the school's 21st century learning expectations. The school has continued with monthly

extended HR periods, covering different SEL (Social Emotional Learning) topics. Topics include emotional awareness, motivation and mindset, responsibility, and self-care.

The Wakefield Memorial High School and the Galvin Middle School staff are working as a team to enhance the transition from eighth to ninth grade for all students. WMHS conducted in-person tours for eighth graders in December. WMHS will host an eighth-grade Parent Information Night in January. The presentation includes department leaders describing what each department offers, guidance and schedule-related information, as well as advice provided by current WMHS students.

Our adjustment counselors continue to play a critical role in improving students' mental well-being. The purpose of the adjustment counselor position is to provide one-on-one counseling targeting a specific social/emotional goal. Students are referred to the adjustment counselor through our intervention process. The goal is to provide six- to eight-weeks of counseling, but this timeframe can be extended if recommended by the adjustment counselor. In addition to one-on-one counseling, the adjustment counselor holds group sessions targeting specific mental health and social/emotional needs.

The Guidance Office also acts as the Registrar's Office of the school, and by February 15, 2025, forty-one new students entered Wakefield Memorial High School. The guidance staff plays an instrumental role in acclimating a large population of new students into the wonderful culture of Wakefield Memorial High School.

Students in the class of 2025 submitted, on average, eight college applications, each resulting in the guidance office processing 2,101 initial transcript requests. Students in the class of 2025 attend eighty different schools of higher education.

Class of 2025 Graduates

Ala, Colin
Aliberti, Jacob
Almeida, Jasmine
Anderson, Sophia
Andrade, Janeisa
Angel, Marcelo
Atoui, Ali
Atoui, Laila
Baguidy, Pharell
Bangston, Stella
Beaver, Matthew
Berinato, Thomas
Bligh, Allyson
Bonner, Juliet
Bordonaro, Samantha
Borges, Jen
Bourque, Uriel
Brackett, Grace
Brewer, Niani
Brown, Henry
Brudnick, Owen
Bryant, Calvin
Buckley, Gwyneth
Burns, Emma
Burton, Matthew
Butler, Eleanor

Cabral, Ethan
Calder, Brooklyn
Calder, Glenn
Callanan, Sean
Caplin, Rachel
Carpenter, Samuel
Carroll, Michael
Caruso, Marcello
Cassesso, Daisy
Caswell, Gavin
Chankhour, Vera
Chapman, Madison
Chea, Jayvith
Chea, Wisely
Christie, Ian
Ciriello, Jacob
Clair, Kyle
Clark, Megan
Coleman, Deirdre
Conners, Leah
Cook, Audrey
Courtright, Zachary
Cribbie, Brianna
Cunha, Tristan
D'Antona, Jessica
DeBenedictis, Timothy
DeGray, Kevin
Deleidi, Konstandina
DePrizio, Cameron
Dhungana, Jolene
Diaz Moreno, Veronica
Dick, Audrey
Dixon, Luke
Dourado, Karol
Doyle, Derek
Dubiel, Taylor
Dujour Rogers, Tawrence
Earley, Blai
Esposito, Cade
Fabbri, James
Fitzgerald, John
Fitzpatrick, Jackson
Fletcher, Sarah
Fortes Da Silva, Leticia
Forti, Kelsie
Fournier, Madeline
Fowler, Ryan
Fuery, Joseph
Gagne, Charles
Gagne, Marc
Gagnon, Ava
Galante, Tyler
Gaudette, Cooper
Gervasi, Giavanna
Gerweck, Rudy
Glennon, Michael
Gmelch, Kathleen
Goc, Samantha
Goc, Zachary
Goss, Maya
Green, Jaime
Greif, Luke
Griffin, Kaylee
Gutierrez, Valerie
Hart, Jordan
Hernandez Mendoza, Susy
Hickey, Benjamin
Hickey, Jaylee
Hodgdon, Jack
Hogan, Ryan
Hotz, Casey
Hubbard, Erik
Hurley, Kayla
Iannelli, Brandon
Joseph, Izabella
Kelley, Owen
Khaja, Mouad
King, Kip
Labieniec, Nicolo
Lanza, Joseph
Leane, Brendan
Lee, Alexis
Leon, Elizabeth
Levy, Adam
Lilay, Yonas
Lima, Kimberly
Little, Hudson
Lock Zanzotto, Christopher
Lombardi, Siobhan
Lynch, Brendan
Lyons, Michaela
Marchino, Danika
Margolis, Aliza
Marsh, Sarah
Marson Buchanan, Joshua
Martin, Aidan
Mathieu, Robinho
McDonald, Christopher

McGee, Molly
McHugh, Daniel
Medina, Deyalin
Mehboudi, Ali
Menjivar, Miranda
Mertens, Evie
Mertens, Liam
Metsis, Ryan
Meziane, Juliana
Mezikofsky, Ethan
Miele, Cole
Moon, Adeline
Morton, Alexandra
Murphy, Patrick
Myette, Abigail
Nardone, Francesca
Navarro, Emma
Nelson, Jupiter
Nemec, Andrew
Nett, Andrew
Nett, Brandon
Norton, Teagan
O'Neill, Giuliana
O'Rourke, Sean
Oliveira, Michael
Olivieri, Benjamin
Othman, Ahmed
Oubihi, Zaena
Padilla Mujo, Gabriela
Pajonotti, Gabriella
Palmer, George
Paniago, Ashley
Passley Clark, Demario
Patel, Jhalak
Patel, Riya
Patel, Trusha
Patel, Yash
Police, Elizabeth
Pothier, Daegan
Powers, Daria
Punj, Laxmi
Rainville, Kayla
Robertson, Julia
Roerich, Roland
Rojevsky, Rachel
Sallee, Lily
Sanchez, Jacob
Sanni, August
Santaniello, Ella
Santos Lopez, Brisely
Saquic Armas, Brayan
Scarpa, Nicholas
Schermerhorn, Maeve
Schuster, Alannah
Seidman, Samuel
Serino, Ava
Sharma, Ankush
Shaw, Ariel
Shea, Luke
Silva, Cassidy
Silva, Karina
Smith, Amber
Solazzo, Anthony
Stone, Alexander
Sullivan, Francis
Suntken, Shea
Sweeney, Patrick
Tannian, Catherine
Tavares, Chrystian
Taylor, Madeline
Trainor, Gabriela
Ursitti, Addison
Valentine, Makenzie
Valentino, Blake
Veilleux, Sophie
Veilleux, Trevor
Vicente, Evelyn
Wagner, Wyli
Waldeck, Emma
Walker, Chase
Waterhouse, Jade
Wedemeier, Nicholas
Whitson, Toni
Willis, Ayla
Wyatt, Broderick
Zani, David
Zivan, Zacchaeus

REPORT OF THE BEEBE MEMORIAL LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The library undertook a variety of building repairs and enhancements to improve the experience for all patrons. Updates included: inserting signage on the front marquee identifying the building as the "Lucius Beebe Memorial Library," masonry repairs to the front steps and Avon Street walkway, and updating the lecture hall carpet and electrical.

During the October Trustees meeting, the library Trustees and staff gathered for dinner, conversation, and a tour of the library. The Trustees were given a behind-the-scenes look at the building and various operating functions. This meet-and-greet event was designed to strengthen communication and connection between the Trustees and staff.

In other personnel news, long-time Assistant Director Jackie Powers left Beebe for a director role at another library. We were delighted to welcome Meaghan Kinton, Head of Technical Services, as the new Assistant Director. Library Board of Trustees member Jackie Natale chose not to seek re-election. After the April town election, the board welcomed new Trustee Karen Sadler.

The decision was made to end Blossoms at the Beebe. The event started as a fundraiser for the library and Chamber of Commerce during a difficult economic time in 2008. After years of successful events, there was consensus between the library and Chamber to pursue other options and opportunities.

At a time when the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) have been targeted for elimination, we remain grateful for local support, State Aid, and gift funds. We are also reminded regularly of what an important role Beebe Library plays for our community. As one patron wrote in a note of appreciation for the staff: "Thanks for all you do to make the Beebe Library an inviting, engaging, and friendly place for the entire Wakefield community."

We thank the Town of Wakefield for its continued support.

Members of the Board included: Laura Cutone Godwin, Secretary; Jeffrey Quinn, Chair; Chris Barrett; Daniel Calore; Aimee Lominac; Jacqueline Natale; Adam Rodgers; Karen Sadler; Scott Staiti; and Susan Wetmore.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR

The year 2025 was one of disruption as the federal government eliminated or restructured services and institutions. For Beebe, the immediate effects were minimal: shuttering of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) resulted in the cancellation of a $4,000 world languages grant that, by year's end, was reinstated for 2026. Changes that affect statewide

library services through the MA Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) are ultimately reflected at the local level. This was seen in the loss of several state-sponsored databases. Beebe was fortunate to be able to fill the most significant gaps resulting from that loss. In the midst of change and disruption, Beebe, following its strategic plan, sought to be a place of respite and connection. Organizationally, staff continued to refine procedures and develop skills.

Programs and Services
Annual events again included Plaza Jazz, Summer at the Library, Wakefield Community Access TV's (WCAT) Beebe Book Buzz, and Wakefield Memorial High School's Halloween Pumpkins on the Plaza. Wakefield Alliance Against Violence's annual White Ribbon event featured a keynote by retiring Town Administrator Steve Maio. Trivia nights and Library Speakers Consortium virtual author talks continued to draw high attendance. New this year was the walking book discussion Books at Breakheart, a plant swap, Latin-dance classes, and a poetry discussion group. Partnerships with Chamber businesses provided classes in marketing for small businesses and yoga.

New to the collection is the Biblio+ streaming service, The Wall Street Journal, PebbleGo, and Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Birds of the World. Friends of Beebe Library continue to fund all programming and supplies, museum passes, décor, the payphone, and the document center. The library continues to serves as a cooling center in very hot weather.

Grants
The Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Explorer grant, $4,000 for foreign language materials, was postponed until 2026. The LSTA-funded Treasure Room archive indexing project was completed.

Personnel Changes

- Resigned: Assistant Director Jaclyn Powers; Head of Youth Services Katrina Lewin; Reference Librarian Erin Galloway.
- Retired: Childrens' Librarians Heidi Zeibig and Holly Warren Turner.
- Appointed to new positions: Head of Technical Services to Assistant Director Meaghan Kinton; Circulation Assistant to Reference Librarian Lauren Poole.
- Hired: Head of Youth Services Kathryn Walton; Head of Technical Services Rachael Meneades; Circulation Assistant John Kronenberg; Custodian David Butler.
- Pages James Cerrule, Sean Marra, and Soha Kulkarni resigned; Luke Lominac, Taylor Napoleone, and Micaela Olivieri were hired.

Building Improvements
The year's building updates included resetting the Main Street lower granite stairs; repointing of Avon entrance walkway; replacing awnings; repair and replacement of the masonry marquee on the front lawn; paint, carpet, and electrical updates in the Lecture Hall; and installation of an access control system.

Library Statistics

In addition to physical items, Beebe Library holds and circulates digital items for download and streaming. Digital holdings include only licenses purchased primarily for Wakefield patrons via OverDrive. Digital circulation includes all Beebe Library patrons' electronic use of content from a variety of streaming platforms.

Holdings	
Physical print and other media	89,331
Digital downloads and streaming: OverDrive	232,502
Total holdings	321,833
Circulation	
Physical print and other media	278,698
Digital downloads and streaming	97,148
Total annual circulation	375,846
Interlibrary loans to Wakefield	34,291
Interlibrary loans from Wakefield	25,168
Total cardholders	13,088
Services	
Annual building visits	172,187
Daily average	511
Reference transactions	11,728
Digital media lab uses	114
Patron meeting room uses	111
Adult programs	399
Adult program participants	4,016
Youth programs	404
Youth program participants	21,053
Email general newsletter subscriptions	4,367
Email youth services newsletter subscriptions	2,972
Social media (Instagram) followers	1,850

REPORT OF THE NORTHEAST METROPOLITAN REGIONAL VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Administration
Superintendent-Director, David DiBarri
Assistant Superintendent, Tracey O'Brien
Principal, Richard Barden

District School Committee
Deborah P. Davis: Woburn, Chair
Judith M. Dyment: North Reading, Vice-Chair
Peter A. Rossetti, Jr.: Saugus, Secretary
Ward Hamilton: Melrose, Treasurer
Robert S. McCarthy: Reading, Associate Treasurer
Blanca Gacharna: Chelsea, Committee Member
Anthony L. Caggiano: Revere, Committee Member
James J. Holland: Malden, Committee Member
Brittany A. Carisella: Wakefield, Committee Member
Larry Means: Stoneham, Committee Member
Brant Snyder: Winchester, Committee Member
Robert O'Dwyer: Winthrop, Committee Member

Outstanding Student Award
Steven Romero from Chelsea, a student in the Robotics program, was chosen as Northeast's nominee at the State Awards Dinner for Outstanding Vocational Technical Students. The event is co-sponsored by the Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators and the Massachusetts Vocational Association.

National Technical Honor Society
On May 27, 2025, the Northeast Chapter of the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) held its annual Induction Ceremony, honoring the academic and professional achievements of its new members. The ceremony provided an opportunity to celebrate their achievements and welcome them into a network of individuals committed to technical expertise, professional growth, and community service. Sixty-six students were inducted. As we move to changing our induction ceremony to the fall going forward, we had a second induction ceremony on November 19, 2025. An additional sixty-five students were inducted at that event.

National Honor Society
The Annual Induction Ceremony to the Northeast Chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS) "Artisans" was held on May 27, 2025. At the ceremony, ten juniors and twenty-two sophomores were inducted. The new members celebrated the academic excellence, character, leadership, and service of these exceptional students. The Northeast Artisans chapter is proud to support these individuals as they continue to excel and contribute to their communities.

Over the summer months of 2025, the principal, a dean, and the advisor met to update the current bylaws and discuss moving the induction ceremony to the fall instead of the spring. The bylaws were revised, staff had the opportunity to review them, and they were approved.

On November 19, 2025, four seniors and twenty-four juniors were inducted into the Artisans chapter of the National Honor Society, bringing the total active membership to include seventy-five students for the 25-26 school year. Students are now participating in peer tutoring, performing community service, and leading various service and outreach activities. We continue to support all members on their personal growth and development of their leadership skills.

Scholarship Committee
The Northeast Awards and Scholarship Committee, along with the PAC board, honored seventy-six outstanding students during the annual Senior Recognition Night, by presenting them with awards and scholarships. In total, $69,950 was awarded to Northeast students who will pursue careers in their vocational fields, enroll in trade apprentice programs, or continue their education at one-, two- or four-year accredited colleges, universities, and trade schools. These awards and scholarships offer students the chance to acquire tools and equipment, as well as help alleviate the costs associated with attending higher education institutions.

School-Wide Professional Development 24-25
Purpose and Goals:
The district's professional development program is designed to ensure continuous improvement in instructional practice, regulatory compliance, and student outcomes. The goals of professional development are to:

1. Ensure compliance and legal literacy
- Ensure all staff members remain compliant with current Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) regulations, including student rights, school responsibilities, and the Individualized Education Program (IEP) and Section 504 processes.
- Ensure staff members are knowledgeable about state and federal legislation impacting teaching, learning, and school operations in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

2. Improve instructional practice, student achievement, and literacy across the curriculum
- Increase staff awareness and implementation of current research-based instructional strategies aligned with the district's mission to improve student achievement.
- Place a strong emphasis on literacy across all curricula, ensuring that reading, writing, speaking, listening, and vocabulary development are embedded across all content areas, including academic and vocational/technical programs.

- Address learning gaps and stalled academic growth resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, as identified through year-end assessment data, by:
    - Continuing the development and refinement of trimester-based curriculum maps, pacing guides, lesson plans, and common assessments.
    - Aligning all curricula with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks.
    - Incorporating Sheltered English Immersion (SEI) strategies and other effective instructional practices.

3. Strengthen English learner and multilingual supports
- Ensure consistent implementation of effective ESL instructional strategies within the vocational high school setting.
- Continue to develop, expand, and promote the Seal of Biliteracy program among students, families, and staff.

4. Promote inclusive, supportive, and trauma-sensitive practices
- Provide educators with a comprehensive understanding of an inclusive culture of care that emphasizes respect, transparent communication, and attention to the social-emotional needs of all stakeholders.
- Increase staff understanding of trauma-sensitive practices and their impact on student learning, behavior, engagement, and well-being.
- Introduce and support the implementation of Social Emotional Learning (SEL) initiatives, including the ReThink Ed Wellness Suite.

5. Increase student engagement and classroom culture
- Support educators in examining and strengthening student engagement across classrooms and vocational shops.
- Identify and reinforce effective engagement strategies that empower students, increase participation, and foster positive classroom and shop cultures.

6. Build collaborative instructional capacity
- Provide professional development for co-teaching as the district defines and implements the Northeast Co-Teaching Model.
- Review and reinforce building-wide norms to promote consistency, collaboration, and shared expectations across the school community.

Professional Development Activities
I. New Teacher Induction Program, August 22, 2025
New teachers participated in a half-day professional development session that included:
- Compliance and safety training: Civil rights training; teacher responsibilities (IEP and Section 504); school security; mandated reporter and professional boundaries; overview of the Northeast co-teaching model; and social emotional learning (SEL) emphasis.

- Technology training: Aspen X2 (attendance, grading, discipline); e-hall pass; Google Classroom setup and instructional platforms.
- Program orientation: an overview of the Northeast New Teacher Induction Program; monthly meeting requirements; mentor/mentee relationships; educator evaluation overview and timelines; operational procedures and building logistics.

II. August Professional Development Days, August 26–27, 2025
Two full days of professional development focused on schoolwide instructional improvement and engagement:

- Review and revision of student engagement strategies at the schoolwide level, departmental level, and classroom/vocational shop level
- Keynote speaker Tyler Tarver reviewed how to empower students, increase engagement, and create a positive classroom culture
- Establishment of building-wide, departmental, and classroom/shop norms
- Review of classroom behavior data to inform engagement strategies
- Development of classroom and shop systems and routines
- Curriculum planning, including syllabus and rubric development and lesson planning, with an emphasis on student engagement
- Collaborative curriculum work aligned to professional, practice, and student-learning goals
- Special Education best practices for academic and vocational staff
- Technology updates

III. Monthly New Teacher Professional Development
A. First-Year Educator Induction and Mentoring Program (Monthly Meetings)

- Developing educator plan and evaluation timelines
- Educator rubrics and observation expectations
- Professional practice and student-learning goal development
- Skillsplus training for student-learning goals
- Induction and mentoring tracking and collaboration
- Formative and summative evaluation evidence requirements

B. Second- and Third-Year Educator Induction and Mentoring Program (Monthly Meetings)

- Developing educator plan and evaluation timelines
- Professional practice and student learning goal refinement
- Mentoring and peer collaboration expectations
- Training for new mentors supporting early-career educators

C. Peer Mentoring Program

- Ongoing mentoring for first-, second-, and third-year educators
- Emphasis on collaboration, shared practice, and instructional growth

IV. Professional Development Day, March 3, 2025

- Safety care and crisis best practices
- Vocational educators: creating a safe and caring shop environment
- Academic educators: creating a safe and caring classroom environment
- Youth Risk Behavior Survey overview
- Active shooter (ALICE) training for staff and students
- Vocational Exploratory Program updates
- Technology training: Using BRISK to support lesson planning
- NEASC Family, Student, and Faculty Survey review
- MCAS training for high-stakes test administration
- Closing literacy gaps: introduction of Foundations of Literacy program

Overall Assessment
This professional development plan reflects a comprehensive, data-driven, and DESE-aligned approach to improving instructional practice, strengthening literacy across the curriculum, supporting educator growth, and ensuring student safety and well-being.

2025 Summer Transition Program
The Summer Transition Program at Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational School was a two-week program that ran from July 7 through July 18, 2025. The program served as an introduction to career and technical education (CTE) as well as foundational high school English and mathematics instruction, with an emphasis on MCAS preparation and expectations aligned to the high school curriculum. The program was designed for incoming freshmen in the Class of 2029. A total of 230 students participated and engaged in hands-on experiences across the following vocational areas: cosmetology, drafting and design, auto technology, auto body and collision, business technology, culinary arts, design and visual communications, electrical, and plumbing. Over the two-week period, students had the opportunity to explore four different shops, allowing them to gain exposure to multiple career pathways. The Summer Transition Program is funded through federal Title I and Carl D. Perkins grants. Participation in the program, including all instructional services and transportation, was provided at no cost to students and their parents or guardians.

Support services
The Northeast Student Services staff provides counseling and support to all students through a multi-tiered system of supports designed to promote student well-being and access to learning. The School Adjustment Counseling team provides a comprehensive, developmentally appropriate social-emotional learning (SEL) program aligned with DESE and CASEL competencies, supporting students in developing self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making to enhance engagement and readiness for learning. At the Tier 1 level, all students receive SEL opportunities through lessons, specialized

workshops, and schoolwide presentations. Tier 2 and Tier 3 supports are provided to students requiring additional targeted support and may include group counseling, collaboration with outside providers and referrals to community resources, specialized workshops, health services, and mediation services. All Northeast counselors are certified School Adjustment Counselors qualified to support a wide range of student needs, and two members of the team are bilingual Spanish-speaking counselors who provide services to support students and families.

The School Adjustment Counselors provide skills-based counseling support and crisis intervention to all students, as needed, and support homeless students by assessing their needs and coordinating services with the Homeless Liaison. They are responsible for developing and monitoring Section 504 Accommodation Plans in collaboration with the Administrator of Student Services and work closely with school personnel, families, medical and mental health providers, social workers, and community agencies to support student well-being. School Adjustment Counselors also connect students and families with community-based mental health services when appropriate, including Eliot Community Human Services, the North Suffolk Crisis Line, and the Advocates Crisis Team, serving as crisis intervention partners for emergency mental health services within the district's communities. Support counseling groups are established annually based on assessment data and student needs and are designed to build social-emotional competencies in self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making. Specialized support and affinity groups are also offered to support non-traditional students and English Language Learner populations.

The Bilingual School Adjustment Counselors provide native language support (Spanish), as needed, to limited-English-proficient students and families across all grades. They provide specific support to the English Language Education program at Northeast, but support other Northeast Latino students and families as needed. Translation services (oral and written) and interpreting services are often required for parent communication throughout the building, and, as needed, the counselor coordinates with all departments to assist. Referrals are made to a Spanish-speaking psychologist for testing for special education evaluation. Coordination for translation in other home languages is done on an as needed basis.

The Career Counselor provides career awareness and career development services to all students, with career counseling and the college application process emphasized by all school counselors. The Career Center serves as the focal point for a comprehensive four-year career development program that prepares Northeast students for their individually chosen career pathways. The curriculum includes career assessment, career information and requirements, employability skills, interviewing skills, portfolio development, and resume preparation. Through assessments that evaluate skills, interests, and work values, the Career Counselor collaborates

with School Adjustment Counselors to support freshmen in the vocational selection process, assist upperclassmen with connections to post-secondary education and employment opportunities, and develop transition plans that support students' post-secondary goals. The Career and Adjustment Counselors also provide targeted support for students enrolled in career areas considered non-traditional for their gender through support groups, specialized presentations, and field trip experiences designed to help students understand the benefits of non-traditional career choices, navigate challenges within their chosen fields, and develop awareness of post-secondary pathways needed to achieve their goals.

Two school nurses provide comprehensive health services to students and coordinate support services for pregnant and parenting teens in collaboration with outside providers affiliated with local hospitals. The nurses also support students with chronic medical conditions by coordinating care with parents, physicians, and other medical providers to ensure students' health needs are met during the school day. They work closely with School Adjustment Counselors to coordinate support when mental health needs arise and collaborate with deans to facilitate emergency medical evaluations when necessary.

The Intervention and Prevention Coordinator (IPC) at Northeast works collaboratively with administration, the counseling department, and teaching staff to identify high-risk areas of student need and coordinate comprehensive intervention and prevention services. During the school year, the IPC focuses on areas including employability skills aligned with CASEL competencies, substance abuse prevention, bullying prevention, conflict resolution, restorative practices, and fostering a positive school culture. The IPC also supports the implementation of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) by strengthening Tier 1 schoolwide practices that promote positive behavior, social-emotional learning, and employability skills for all students, working collaboratively with students and staff to reinforce skills essential for success in school, the workplace, and the community.

In addition to the support provided by the counseling staff, the Special Education Department offers a TEAM meeting process that promotes monitoring of student progress and educational support. Each special education student is assigned a liaison who is a teacher in the Special Education Department who oversees progress in relation to the Individual Education Program, communicating with parents, teachers, and counselors to help all students achieve success.

The Northeast Mentoring Program is a freshman transition initiative that pairs junior and senior mentors with small groups of freshmen to provide support and promote a positive school climate. Mentors lead freshman orientation and meet regularly with their groups throughout the year to

deliver lessons and guidance. Mentors receive leadership training from the Student Services staff, creating a core group of approximately ninety peer leaders from the eleventh and twelfth grades.

The After-School Help Program offers academic assistance to students struggling in one or more subjects, with support provided by academic and vocational teachers. This free program ran Tuesday through Thursday, and on Mondays when teachers were available. Water, snacks, and transportation home were provided. These opportunities allowed students to receive additional support in a structured and welcoming environment.

School-wide workshops and presentations were offered throughout the year to student groups. All freshmen participated in workshops addressing topics such as depression awareness and gender equity, while larger assemblies focused on goal setting, substance abuse prevention, responsible decision-making, teen dating issues, tolerance, character development, and other important social-emotional learning topics. These programs collectively support the social, emotional, and academic development of all students while fostering a positive and inclusive school community.

At Northeast, the student service emphasis is on clear and consistent communication with both students and parents. Mid-term progress reports were sent each trimester, and report cards were distributed three times per year. Email communication was encouraged, and progress update meetings were held as needed. Parents and guardians were invited to be actively involved in all class scheduling activities. Post-graduate planning was supported through career assessment and planning activities, including one-on-one FAFSA support from financial aid specialists, and students participated in the annual National Hispanic College Fair sponsored by College Fair USA. Career Plans are sent home annually for parent review, and language development for limited-English proficient students is communicated through assessment data and parent meetings. The department strives to serve all students equitably while providing additional support to those facing unique life challenges.

In 2022, Northeast welcomed our beloved social-emotional support dog, Nor'e, to the school community. Over the past several years, Nor'e has played a vital role in promoting social and emotional well-being and helping to create a supportive and welcoming environment for students. Nor'e's growth has been remarkable; from a small puppy who fit snugly in our arms, she has grown into a compassionate and curious companion. Nor'e completed her training through Auntie Dog of Tewksbury and successfully passed multiple obedience evaluations to become fully licensed through Therapy Dog International. Training remains an ongoing process, as continued practice of obedience and socialization skills is essential to maintaining her effectiveness in the school setting.

One of Nor'e's primary roles is to provide comfort and companionship to students experiencing stress, anxiety, or other emotional challenges. Students frequently report that her presence helps reduce feelings of loneliness and isolation while fostering a sense of connection and belonging within the school community. Nor'e also serves as a calming influence during difficult situations, helping students feel more at ease, express emotions, and seek support when needed. Through daily interactions, students demonstrate increased empathy, compassion, and responsibility. Nor'e's presence often facilitates positive communication between students and staff, creating opportunities for meaningful connections that contribute to a positive school culture and climate. Nor'e regularly participates in Northeast events, including open houses, parent-teacher conferences, ninth-grade orientation, and community events such as Women in Construction, where she is warmly received by families and visitors alike. She has also become a familiar presence in physical education classes, where students enjoy her participation. Overall, Nor'e's role at Northeast extends far beyond companionship, providing therapeutic benefits that support the social, emotional, and developmental well-being of students across the school.

Community Education Program

The Community Education Program is a broad-base collaborative community initiative assisting learners of all kinds complete their education and achieve economic self-sufficiency through empowerment skills, support services, and meaningful employment. Our vision is to deliver educational an experience in a positive environment that will enable Northeast to reach new heights together with our lifelong learning community. The focus of the Community Education Program is to offer programs that meet the demands of our learning populations. In doing this, we give people the opportunity to improve employment skills, fulfill lifelong goals, or enrich their lives with social activities. With the most qualified instructors and state-of-the-art labs, Northeast strives to maintain the highest standards of education. Emphasis is on our new technology, upgrades such as brochure modification, new state-of-the-art website construction, and the introduction of new programs in the medical field. Additional offerings include new culinary classes, continuing education in all construction related courses, computer and CAD classes, photography, and many other enrichment courses.

2025 Graduates

The 2024-25 school year represents the fifty-fifth class to matriculate at Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational School. Northeast graduated 292 students. Breakdown of graduates' status after graduation is as follows:

- Attending four-year college: 132
- Attending two-year college: 30
- Apprentice school: 7
- Employed: 72
- Entering military service: 1
- Other: 50

Special Needs Enrollment
Special needs enrollment for the 2024-25 school year continued to represent an approximately one-quarter share of the total school enrollment. The 281 special needs students represent 20.7 percent of the school population. Additionally, 103 students were eligible for services under section 504 of the Rehabitation Act.

District School Committee Election of Officers
At the Annual Organizational Meeting of the District School Committee on January 9, 2025, the following members were elected as officers of the Northeast District School Committee:
Chair: Deborah P. Davis, Woburn
Vice Chair: Judith M. Dyment, North Reading
Secretary: Peter A. Rossetti, Jr., Saugus
Treasurer: Ward Hamilton, Melrose
Associate Treasurer: Robert McCarthy, Reading

Conclusion
As Northeast celebrates its fifty-fifth year of career and technical excellence with its twelve member communities, the district continues to offer students the finest career technical education with which to build a successful career. The District supports curriculum in both academic and career technical classrooms with the latest equipment and technology. Evidence of our commitment is reflected in the State's grade nine-through-twelve dropout rate reports, which indicate Northeast is significantly lower, at 0.3 percent, versus the State rate of 2.0 percent. Recent graduate follow-up data indicates that 97.3 percent of students from the Class of 2025 were positively placed in relevant post-secondary areas (Source: MA DESE CVTE Perkins V-Post secondary placement).

In fact, Northeast currently employs thirty-seven alumni at the school, including the Superintendent-Director. Alumni stories of success and their readiness and willingness to help their alma mater by recruiting graduates for cooperative education experiences or employment is proof of their dedication to Northeast. Testimonials as to the success of our graduates continue to be received, which makes us proud to have contributed in some small way to their accomplishments.

The Career Center facilitates student access to technology to further learn business aspects of their industries and develop career plans, resumes, and comprehensive portfolios. It also prepares college and other post-secondary documents with the assistance of our faculty, including Career and Adjustment Counselors. Northeast continues to provide students the finest career technical education with which to build a positive and productive post-secondary experience, be it college or career, offering experiences with the latest equipment and technology in both the career technical and academic programs.

Once again, I am proud to have represented Wakefield as a member of the Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational District School Committee. I will continue to serve as the guardian of funds allocated from the community to this educational institution, assist in, and provide counsel to the school in maintaining the highest standards of educational excellence possible.

Brittany Carisella, Committee Member
Northeast School Committee

REPORT OF THE MUNICIPAL GAS AND LIGHT DEPARTMENT

Our one hundred twenty-eighth annual report of Wakefield's Municipal Gas and Light Department (WMGLD) covers the fiscal period July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025.

The electric sales of the Department totaled 165,975,779 kWh compared to 159,535,510 kWh the prior year. This slight increase was primarily attributable to seasonal weather differences. The peak month for electric usage was July, with 17,427,201 kWh of energy consumed. The highest single-day usage was July 10, 2024, with 755,984 kWh sold. The winter peak month was February, with 15,515,447 kWh consumed. The highest winter single-day usage occurred on January 22, 2025, with 596,583 kWh sold.

The Department continued to connect several large new customer projects and continued to construct infrastructure to provide redundancy. The Department continues to upgrade its overhead and underground distribution infrastructure to improve system reliability and better equip the system for future expansion. The Department efficiently and effectively responded to the various weather events with minimal impact on the infrastructure and continued to invest in system improvements. The Department, in conjunction with the Northeast Regional Vocational School and Wakefield Memorial High School, received Town and State approval for the construction of an energy park on Hemlock Road, and the project is progressing on schedule. The Department continues to collaborate closely with each school as their building projects continue. The park will provide emergency battery backup, solar, and electric vehicle infrastructure for both schools. Electric system improvements along Farm Street and Hemlock Road, combined with vegetation management, remain a priority to continue to improve system reliability.

The gas sales of the Department were 615,420 MCF, compared to 569,216 MCF in the prior year. This increase from the prior year is attributable to a colder winter during the current year. February was the peak month for gas usage with 127,442 MCF sold that month.

The Department continued to manage its gas supply from the Kinder Morgan pipeline and National Grid. The Department continues to replace old steel and (replaced the last of the) cast-iron gas mains with modern plastic gas mains, which will ensure a safe and reliable gas distribution system. WMGLD also completed major gas main upgrades, including sections of Water Street, Main Street, Cyrus Street, Columbia Road, Bancroft Street, Crescent Street, Otis Street, and Rockland Street. The Department utilized a major federal grant to replace mains and services on Water Street and the surrounding side streets near the downtown area. This project replaced all remaining cast iron on the system. The replacement project began September 2024 and was completed in April 2025.

The Department has introduced a brand-new website and continues to improve its customer service options. The Department's energy conservation program combines energy audits with rebates for the installation of weatherization material, and the purchase of energy efficient appliances continues to be popular. Several modifications and enhancements have been made to the programs to encourage the reduction in the use of fossil fuels, including the enhanced heat pump rebate for customers completely removing their old fossil fuel system. Over seven hundred customers received $510,241 in conservation rebates and incentives, including incentives for the Department's solar and electric vehicle charger rebate programs.

Members of the Commission include: Thomas Boettcher, Chair; Jennifer Kallay, Secretary; Sharon Daly; Elton Prifti; and John Warchol. Peter Dion is the General Manager.

Statement of Net Position - Proprietary Fund
June 30, 2025
(with comparative totals as of June 30, 2024)

	2025	2024
Assets		
Current Assets		
Unrestricted cash and short-term investments	$1,893,584	$4,363,221
Receivables, net of allowance for uncollectable	4,336,002	4,067,686
Prepaid expenses	5,023,885	4,946,089
Inventory	1,525,139	1,464,436
Substation land license fee	40,800	40,800
Due from MMWEC	171,016	171,016
Total Current Assets	12,990,426	15,053,248
Noncurrent Assets		
Restricted cash and short-term investments	2,302,484	2,233,853
Substation land license fee, net of current portion	367,200	408,000
Due from MMWEC	1,051,961	1,051,961
[2] Net OPEB asset	1,015,716	1,015,716
Capital assets:		
Land and construction in progress	3,807,777	750,265
Other capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	53,334,095	50,531,730
Total Noncurrent Assets	61,879,233	55,991,525
Total Assets	74,869,659	71,044,773
Deferred Outflows of Resources		
[1] Related to pension	1,305,000	1,305,000
[2] Related to OPEB	1,071,961	1,071,961
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	2,376,961	2,376,961

Statement of Net Position - Proprietary Fund (continued)

	2025	2024
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable	$ 5,198,092	$ 4,697,148
Accrued liabilities	64,919	40,764
Customer deposits	1,686,983	1,642,883
Current portion of long-term liabilities:		
Loans payable	1,585,540	1,480,581
Lease payable	20,224	--
Accrued employee compensated absences	509,471	431,756
Total Current Liabilities	9,065,229	8,293,132
Noncurrent Liabilities		
Loans payable, net of current portion	7,714,228	9,347,541
Lease payable, net of current portion	580,432	--
Accrued employee compensated absences	392,916	198,609
[1] Net pension liability	8,138,000	8,138,000
Total Noncurrent Liabilities	16,825,576	17,684,150
Total Liabilities	25,890,805	25,977,282
Deferred Inflows of Resources		
[1] Related to pension	892,000	892,000
[2] Related to OPEB	1,300,272	1,300,272
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	2,192,272	2,192,272
Net Position		
Net investment in capital assets	47,231,966	40,445,595
Restricted for depreciation fund	198,647	193,746
[2] Restricted for OPEB benefits	--	1,015,716
[1,2] Unrestricted	1,732,930	3,597,123
Total Net Position	$ 49,163,543	$ 45,252,180

[1] Net pension liability and deferred outflows and inflows of resources related to pension are stated at prior year value. Figures will change when the audit of the Wakefield Contributory Retirement System is completed.

[2] Net OPEB asset and deferred outflows and inflows of resources related to OPEB are stated at prior year value. Figures will change when the OPEB actuarial valuation is available.

Statement of Changes In Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position - Proprietary Fund
for the Year Ended June 30, 2025
(with comparative totals for the year ended June 30, 2024)

	2025	2024
Operating Revenues		
Electric sales, net of discounts of $639,439 and $609,539, in 2025 and 2024 respectively	$ 33,646,632	$ 34,526,299
Gas sales, net of discounts of $134,052 and $123,456, in 2025 and 2024 respectively	12,212,776	12,032,534
Total Operating Revenues	45,859,408	46,558,833
Operating Expenses		
Cost of purchased electricity	17,295,793	15,391,617
Cost of purchased natural gas	6,874,016	6,978,376
[1, 2] Operating	7,607,179	5,840,267
Maintenance	4,246,827	3,693,777
Depreciation	5,424,793	4,907,816
Total Operating Expenses	41,448,608	36,811,853
Operating Income	4,410,800	9,746,980
Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)		
Investment income	201,525	183,809
Interest expense	(423,280)	(399,251)
Other income (expense)	(578,326)	463,406
Total Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses), Net	(800,081)	247,964
Income Before Transfers	3,610,719	9,994,944
Capital Grants	1,275,059	--
Return on Investment		
(transfer to Town of Wakefield)	(974,415)	(960,015)
Change in Net Position	3,911,363	9,034,929
Net Position, Beginning of year	45,252,180	36,217,251
Net Position, Ending of year	$ 49,163,543	$ 45,252,180

[1] Balance does not include the effect of the change in net pension liability. Balance will change when the audit of the Wakefield Contributory Retirement System is completed.

[2] Balance does not include the effect of the change in net OPEB asset. Balance will change when the OPEB actuarial valuation is available.

Statement of Cash Flows - Proprietary Fund
for the Year Ended June 30, 2025
(with comparative totals for the year ended June 30, 2024)

	2025	2024
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Receipts from customers and users	$ 46,285,138	$ 47,543,104
1, 2 Payments to vendors and employees	(36,015,139)	(36,644,279)
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	10,269,999	10,898,825
Cash Flows from Noncapital Financing Activities		
Return on investment to Town of Wakefield	(974,415)	(960,015)
Substation land license fee	40,800	40,800
Merchandise and jobbing	(598,891)	259,882
Other	1,003,910	880,226
Net Cash (Used in) Provided by Noncapital Financing Activities	(528,596)	220,893
Cash Flows From Capital and Related Financing Activities		
Acquisition and construction of capital assets	(10,664,702)	(5,320,469)
Principal payments on loans	(1,528,353)	(1,437,876)
Principal payments on leases	(19,313)	--
Capital grants	1,275,059	--
Loss on disposal of capital assets	(983,345)	(676,702)
Interest expense	(423,280)	(399,251)
Net Cash Used in Capital and Related Financing Activities	(12,343,934)	(7,834,298)
Cash Flows From Investing Activities		
Investment income	201,525	183,809
Net Cash Provided by Investing Activities	201,525	183,809
Net Change in Cash and Short-Term Investments	(2,401,006)	3,469,229
Total Cash and Short Term Investments, Beginning of Year	6,597,074	3,127,845
Total Cash and Short Term Investments, End of Year	$ 4,196,068	$ 6,597,074
Reconciliation of Operating Income to Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities		
Operating income	4,410,800	$ 9,746,980
Adjustments to reconcile operating income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization expense	5,424,793	4,907,816
Changes in assets, liabilities, and deferred outflows/inflows:		
Receivables	(254,242)	228,524
Prepaid expenses	(77,796)	(134,401)
Inventory	(60,703)	16,265
Due from/to subsidiary	(17,034)	(12,896)
Net OPEB liability (asset) and related deferrals	--	(529,544)
Accounts payable	500,944	(2,865,893)
Accrued liabilities	24,155	(212,738)
Net pension liability and related deferrals	--	(417,000)
Other liabilities	319,082	171,712
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	$ 10,269,999	$ 10,898,825
Non-Cash Investing and Financing Activities		
Right of use asset exchanged for lease liability	$ 619,968	$ --

[1] Net pension liability and deferred outflows and inflows of resources related to pension are stated at zero value. Figures will change when the audit of the Wakefield Contributory Retirement System is completed.
[2] Balance does not include the effect of the change in net OPEB asset. Balance will change when the OPEB actuarial valuation is available.

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

Regular Town Meeting, May 5, 2025
The Annual Town Meeting was held in the auditorium at the Galvin Middle School, 525 Main Street, in said Wakefield on Monday, the fifth day of May, 2025, at seven o'clock in the afternoon, then and there to act on the following articles. Town Moderator William H. Carroll called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. There were 165 registered voters in attendance. Town Meeting tellers were sworn in by Town Clerk Betsy Sheeran.

Town Moderator Carroll accepted the Return of Service from Town Clerk Betsy Sheeran. Town Clerk Sheeran led the Pledge of Allegiance. Daniel Sherman, Finance Committee member, presented the Financial Update.

Town Administrator Stephen P. Maio made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda included Articles 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8, as described in the Recommendation Book. The motion was seconded.
VOTE: Motion passed.

ARTICLE 1. To determine how much money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds for General Government, Protection of Persons and Property, Human Services, Public Works, Public Service Enterprises, Education, Unclassified, Benefits & Administration and Light Department specifying what appropriation shall be taken from the receipts of a department; or to see what the Town will do about it.
Town Council

MOTION: Town Administrator Stephen P. Maio moved that the Town raise and appropriate from tax levy or transfer from available fuds the sums of money as detailed in the following recommendations for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026, the grand total amounting to $134,466,433.00 The motions will provide for the breakdown of this amount and the sources thereof in the various classifications as described in The Recommendation Book to carry out the purpose of this Article. Mr. Maio will comment on the sections and make recommendations. Dr. Douglas Lyons will address the School Section. The motion was seconded. The Finance Committee recommended favorable action.
VOTE: Motion passed.

ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for Capital Outlay; or to see what the Town will do about it.
Capital Outlay Committee

MOTION: Mr. Philip Renzi, Chairman of the Capital Outlay Committee, moved that the Town raise and appropriate from tax levy the amount of $2,152,966.00 and transfer the amount of $358,000.00 from the sewer receipts to the Sewer Department Capital Outlay Account and the sum of $307,000.00 from the water receipts to the Water Department Capital Outlay Account to carry out the purpose of this Article. The motion was seconded. The Finance Committee recommended favorable action.
VOTE: Motion passed.

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to the Capital Projects/Debt Service Fund, also known as the Debt Service Fund; or to see what the Town will do about it.
Town Council

MOTION: Town Administrator Stephen P. Maio moved that the Town appropriate from tax levy to the Capital Projects Fund, also know as the Debt Service Fund, the sum of $9, 548,150.00 to carry out the purpose of this Article. The motion was seconded. The Finance Committee recommended favorable action.
VOTE: Motion passed – Consent Agenda.

ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Assessors to use such sum of the balance of the operating fund of the Municipal Gas and Light Department as of June 30, 2025 as the Board of Light Commissioners may vote in computing the tax rate for the fiscal period July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026; or to see what the Town will do about it.
Municipal Light Commissioners

MOTION: Town Administrator Stephen P. Maio moved that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Assessors to use such sum of $989,032.00 from the operating fund of the Municipal Gas and Light Department in computing the tax rate for fiscal period July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 to carry out the purpose of this Article. The motion was seconded. The Finance Committee recommended favorable action.
VOTE: Motion passed – Consent Agenda.

ARTICLE 5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds including the excess and deficiency account a sum of money to supplement the appropriations of various budgets for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025; or to see what the town will do about it.
Town Council

MOTION: Town Administrator Stephen P. Maio moved that the Town appropriate by transfer from Free Cash the sum of $650,000.00 to carry out the purpose of this Article. The motion was seconded. The Finance Committee recommended favorable action.
VOTE: Motion passed – Consent Agenda.

ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to indemnify certain police officers and firefighters of the Town for medical, surgical and hospitalization expenses as a result of injuries received by the officers/firefighters in the performance of their duties, as provided for under Section 100, Chapter 41 of Massachusetts General Laws in such amount and to such extent as may be recommended by the Town Council; or to see what the Town will do about it.
Town Council

MOTION: Town Administrator Stephen P. Maio moved that the Town appropriate by transfer from Free Cash the sum of $125,000.00 to carry out the purpose of this Article. The motion was seconded. The Finance Committee recommended favorable action.
VOTE: Motion passed – Consent Agenda.

ARTICLE 7. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Council to accept, or take by eminent domain proceedings, conveyances or easements from time to time, giving the Town the right to construct and maintain drains, sewers, water lines, retaining walls and streets and to raise and appropriate a sufficient sum of money to carry out the purpose of this Article; or to see what the Town will do about it.
Town Council

MOTION: DPW Director Joseph Conway moved that the Town appropriate from tax levy the sum of $1.00 to carry out the purpose of this Article. The motion was seconded. The Finance Committee recommended favorable action.
VOTE: Motion passed – Consent Agenda.

ARTICLE 8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the collection, disposal, recycling and composting of refuse; or to see what the Town will do about it.
Town Council

MOTION: DPW Director Joseph Conway moved that the Town raise and appropriate from tax levy the sum of $2,456,958.00 to carry out the purpose of this Article. The motion was seconded. The Finance Committee recommended favorable action.
VOTE: Motion passed – Consent Agenda.

ARTICLE 9. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sufficient sum of money for the purchase of one 1250-gallon-per-minute pumper truck for use by the Fire Department, and to determine whether to raise this appropriation by borrowing or otherwise, or to see what the Town will do about it.
Town Council

MOTION: Town Administrator Stephen P. Maio moved that the Town appropriate the sum of $1,300,000.00 for the purpose and equipping of a 1250 gallon-per-minute fire pumper truck including the payment of costs, incidental or related thereto and to raise this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Town Council, is authorized to borrow the sum of $1,300,000.00 under and pursuant to G.L. c. 44, section 7(1), or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor to carry out the purpose of this Article. The motion was seconded. The Finance Committee recommended favorable action. This Article requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote.
VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sufficient sum of money to design and obtain permits and approvals for a new salt shed, and to determine whether the appropriation shall be raised by borrowing or otherwise; or to see what the Town will do about it.
Town Council

MOTION: DPW Director Joseph Conway moved that the Town appropriate the sum of $395,300.00 to design and obtain permits for a new salt shed, including the payment costs incidental or related thereto; and to raise this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Town Council, is authorized to borrow the sum of $395,000.00 under and pursuant to G.L. c. 44 section 7(1), or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor to carry out the purpose of this Article. The motion was seconded. The Finance Committee recommended favorable action. This Article requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote.
VOTE: Yes: 130; No: 14. Motion passed.

ARTICLE 11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sufficient sum of money for the replacement of the Town-owned fueling facility, and to determine whether the appropriation shall be raised by borrowing or otherwise; or to see what the Town will do about it.
Town Council

MOTION: DPW Director Joseph Conway moved that the Town appropriate the sum of $2,600,000.00 for the replacement of the Town-owned fueling facility, including the payment of costs incidental or related thereto; and to raise this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Town Council, is authorized to borrow the sum of $2,600,000.00 under and pursuant to G.L. chapter 44, section 7(1), or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor to carry out the purpose of this Article. The motion was seconded. The Finance Committee recommended Favorable action. This Article requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote.
VOTE: Yes: 40; No: 115. Motion did not pass.

ARTICLE 12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sufficient sum of money for environmental remediation of Town-owned property at 94 Butler Avenue, and to determine whether the appropriation shall be raised by borrowing or otherwise; or to see what the Town will do about it.
Town Council

MOTION: Town Administrator Stephen P. Maio moved that the Town appropriate the sum of $1,300,000.00 for the environmental remediation of Town-owned property at 94 Butler Avenue, including the payment of costs incidental or related thereto; and to raise this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Town Council, is authorized to borrow the sum of $1,300,000.00 under and pursuant to G.L. chapter 44, section 7(1), or any

other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor to carry out the purpose of this Article. The motion was seconded. The Finance Committee recommended favorable action. This Article requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote. Mr. William Renault, Town Engineer, will read comments.
VOTE: Yes: 133; No: 5
Motion passed.

ARTICLE 13. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Council, pursuant to G.L. c. 40, § 14 and any other applicable authority, to accept a grant of drainage easements on the property known and numbered as 39 Grafton Street, Wakefield, Massachusetts, and to raise and appropriate the sum of $1 to carry out the purpose of this article; or to see what the Town will do about it.
Town Council

MOTION: Town Engineer William Renault moved that the Town raise and appropriate from tax levy the sum of $1.00 to carry out the purpose of this Article. The motion was seconded. The Finance Committee recommended favorable action. This Article requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote.
VOTE: Yes: 133; No: 1
Motion passed.

ARTICLE 14. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Council, pursuant to G.L. c. 40, § 14 and any other applicable authority, to accept a grant of drainage easements on the property known and numbered as 70 Butler Avenue, Wakefield, Massachusetts, and to raise and appropriate the sum of $1 to carry out the purpose of this article; or to see what the Town will do about it.
Town Council

MOTION: Town Engineer William Renault moved that the Town raise and appropriate from tax levy the sum of $1.00 to carry out the purpose of this Article. The motion was seconded. This Article requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote. The Finance Committee recommended favorable action.
VOTE: Yes: 139; No: 2
Motion passed.

A motion was made at 9:50 p.m. to adjourn Town Meeting until Thursday, May 8, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. The motion was seconded.
VOTE: Motion passed.

Town Moderator William H. Carroll called the Town Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on May 8, 2025. There were 115 registered voters in attendance.

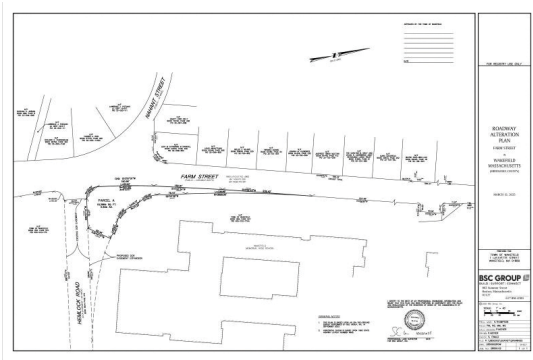
ARTICLE 15. To see if the Town will vote will vote to authorize the Town Council, pursuant to G.L. c. 40, §14 and any other applicable authority, to do the following in connection with that certain Decision of the Wakefield Zoning Board of Appeals filed with the Wakefield Town Clerk on August 12, 2022 and filed with the Middlesex South Registry District of the Land

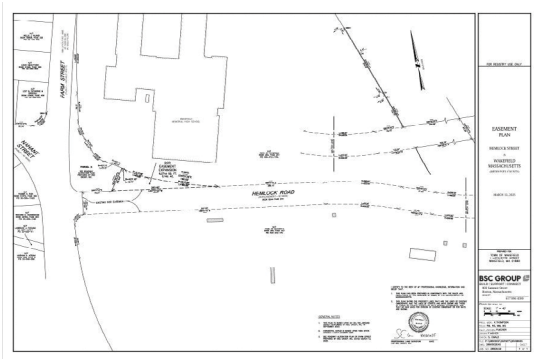
Court as Document No. 1923035 related to the property shown on the Town of Wakefield Assessors Map 01, Lot AM1 (Assessor's Parcel ID No. 01-36-AM1) and also known and numbered as 200-400 Quannapowitt Parkway, Wakefield, Massachusetts: a. Accept a restriction on a portion of the property for open space and conservation purposes; and b. Accept an easement for public pedestrian access and use of a portion of the property; and c. Enter into a lease agreement allowing the Wakefield Police Department to use and occupy a portion of the property as a public safety office for nominal consideration; or to see what the Town will do about it.
Zoning Board of Appeals

MOTION: Thomas Lucey, Chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals, moved that the Town authorize the Town Council, pursuant to G.L. chapter 40, section 14, and any other applicable authority, to do the following in connection with that certain Decision of the Wakefield Zoning Board of Appeals filed with the Wakefield Town Clerk on August 12, 2022 and filed with the Middlesex South Registry District of the Land Court as Document No. 1923035 related to the property shown on the Town of Wakefield Assessors Map 01, Lot AM1 (Assessor's Parcel ID No. 01-36-AM1) and also known and numbered as 200-400 Quannapowitt Parkway, Wakefield, Massachusetts: a. Accept a restriction on apportion of the property for open space and conservation purposes; b. Accept an easement for public pedestrian access and use of a portion of the property; c. Enter into a lease agreement allowing the Wakefield Police Department to use and occupy a portion of the property as a public safety office for nominal consideration to carry out the purpose of this Article. The motion was seconded. James Hogan of the Planning Board recommends favorable action. This Article requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote.
VOTE: Unanimous
Motion passed.

ARTICLE 16. To see if the Town will vote, in connection with the reconstruction of the Wakefield Memorial High School building, to improve the intersection of Farm Street and Hemlock Road, as follows: a. pursuant to G.L. c. 82, §§ 21-23 and any other applicable law, altering and relocating the layout of Farm Street by adding to it the Town-owned land shown as "Parcel A" on a plan entitled "Roadway Alteration Plan / Farm Street in Wakefield Massachusetts" dated March 13, 2025, a copy of which is on file with the Town Clerk, such land consisting of approximately 18,398 square feet ("Parcel A"); b. pursuant to G.L. c. 40, § 15A and any other applicable law, transferring the care, custody, management and control of Parcel A from the Town Council for purposes of serving as school grounds, to the care, custody, management and control of the Town Council for the purpose of serving as part of a public way, to wit, Farm Street, the Town Council having determined that Parcel A is no longer needed for school grounds purposes; c. pursuant to G.L. c. 40, § 15 and any other applicable law, authorizing the Town Council to grant an easement for nominal consideration to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, acting by and through its Department of Conservation and Recreation, over the land shown as "DCR Easement

Expansion" on a plan entitled "Easement Plan / Hemlock Road in Wakefield Massachusetts" dated March 13, 2025, a copy of which is on file with the Town Clerk, such land consisting of approximately 6,271 square feet (the "Easement Area,") such easement to be for all purposes for which streets or ways are or may customarily be used in the Town of Wakefield; and d. pursuant to G.L. c. 40, § 15A and any other applicable law, transferring the care, custody, management and control of the Easement Area from the Town Council for purposes of serving as school grounds, to the care, custody, management and control of the Town Council for the purpose of serving as part of a way, to wit, Hemlock Road, the Town Council having determined that the Easement Area is no longer needed for school grounds purposes; or to see what the Town will do about it.
Town Council





MOTION: William Renault, Town Engineer, moved that, in connection with the reconstruction of the Wakefield Memorial High School building, the Town improve the intersection of Farm Street and Hemlock Road, as follows: a. pursuant to G.L. chapter 82, sections 21-23 and any other applicable law, by altering and relocating the layout of Farm Street by adding it to the Town-owned land shown as "Parcel A on a plan entitled "Roadway Alteration Plan/Farm Street in Wakefield Massachusetts" dated March 13, 2025, a copy of which is on file with the Town Clerk, such land consisting of approximately 18,398 square feet ("Parcel A"); b. pursuant to G.L. chapter 40, section 15A and any other applicable law, by transferring the care, custody, management and control of Parcel A from the Town Council for

purposes of serving as school grounds, to the care, custody, management and control to the Town Council for the purpose of serving as part of a public way, to wit, Farm Street, the Town Council having determined that Parcel A is no longer needed for school grounds purposes; c. pursuant to G.L. chapter 40, section 15 and any other applicable law, by authorizing the Town Council to grant an easement for nominal consideration to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, acting by and through its Department of Conservation and Recreation, over the land shown as "DCR Easement Expansion" on a plan entitled "Easement Plan/Hemlock Road in Wakefield Massachusetts" dated March 13, 2025, a copy of which is on file with the Town Clerk, such land consisting of approximately 6,271 square feet (the "Easement Area") such easement to be for all purposes for which streets or ways are or may customarily be used in the Town of Wakefield; and d. pursuant to G.L. chapter 40, section 15A and any other applicable law, by transferring the care, custody, management and control of the Easement Area from the Town Council for purposes of serving as school grounds, to the care, custody, management and control of the Town Council for the purpose of serving as part of a way, to wit, Hemlock Road, the Town Council having determined that the Easement Area is no longer needed for school grounds purposes to carry out the purpose of this Article. The motion was seconded. James Hogan of the Planning Board recommended favorable action. This Article requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote.
VOTE: Yes: 104; No: 7
Motion passed.

ARTICLE 17. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw as follows: 1. Adding the following to the end of §190-7A: "The Floodplain District is located as shown on a separate map entitled 'Floodplain Overlay District', dated February 27, 2025, a copy of which is on file with and available for inspection at the Wakefield Town Clerk's office. 2. Amending the Wakefield Zoning Map by adopting the "Floodplain Overlay District" map, dated February 27, 2025, a copy of which is on file with and available for inspection at the Wakefield Town Clerk's office. 3. Deleting Chapter 190 Article V – Floodplain Overlay District in its entirety and replacing it with the following: § 190-25 Purpose. In addition to the purposes outlined in § 190-3 of this chapter, the purpose of this Article V is to: A. Ensure public safety through reducing the threats to life and personal injury; B. Eliminate new hazards to emergency response officials; C. Prevent the occurrence of public emergencies resulting from water quality, contamination, and pollution due to flooding; D. Avoid the loss of utility services which if damaged by flooding would disrupt or shut down the utility network and impact regions of the community beyond the site of flooding; E. Eliminate costs associated with the response and cleanup of flooding conditions; F. Reduce damage to public and private property resulting from flooding waters. § 190-26 Establishment. The Floodplain District is herein established as an overlay district shown on the Floodplain Overlay District map dated February 27, 2025. The district includes all special flood hazard areas within the Town of Wakefield designated as Zone A and AE, on the Middlesex County Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) to be dated July 8, 2025 and to be issued by the

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the administration of the National Flood Insurance Program. The exact boundaries of the district shall be defined by the 1%-chance base flood elevations shown on the FIRM as well as and further defined by the Middlesex County Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report to be dated July 8, 2025. § 190-27 Definitions. These definitions are applicable only to Article V and do not have applicability to other Sections of the Zoning Bylaw. BASE FLOOD ELEVATON (BFE) – All flood storage areas for the 100-year frequency storm including the 100-Year floodway along the Mill River and Saugus River, including their tributaries as designated and depicted on the current FEMA Flood Boundary and Floodway Map. DEVELOPMENT - Any man-made change to improved or unimproved real estate, including but not limited to building or other structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation or drilling operations or storage of equipment or materials. [US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59]. FLOOD BOUNDARY AND FLOODWAY MAP - An official map of a community issued by FEMA that depicts, based on detailed analyses, the boundaries of the 100-year and 500-year floods and the 100-year floodway. FLOODPLAIN – See BASE FLOOD ELEVATION. FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR – The position of Town Engineer is designated as the Floodplain Administrator for the Town of Wakefield. FLOODWAY - The channel of the river, creek or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than a designated height. [Base Code, Chapter 2, Section 202]. FUNCTIONALLY DEPENDENT USE - A use which cannot perform its intended purpose unless it is located or carried out in close proximity to water. The term includes only docking facilities, port facilities that are necessary for the loading and unloading of cargo or passengers, and ship building and ship repair facilities, but does not include long-term storage or related manufacturing facilities. [US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59] Also [Referenced Standard ASCE 24-14]. HIGHEST ADJACENT GRADE - The highest natural elevation of the ground surface prior to construction next to the proposed walls of a structure. [US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59]. HISTORIC STRUCTURE - Any structure that is: (a) Listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places (a listing maintained by the Department of Interior) or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as meeting the requirements for individual listing on the National Register; (b) Certified or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as contributing to the historical significance of a registered historic district or a district preliminarily determined by the Secretary to qualify as a registered historic district; (c) Individually listed on a state inventory of historic places in states with historic preservation programs which have been approved by the Secretary of the Interior; or (d) Individually listed on a local inventory of historic places in communities with historic preservation programs that have been certified either: (1) By an approved state program as determined by the Secretary of the Interior or (2) Directly by the Secretary of the Interior in states without approved programs. [US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59]. NEW CONSTRUCTION - Structures for which the start of construction commenced on or after the effective date of the first

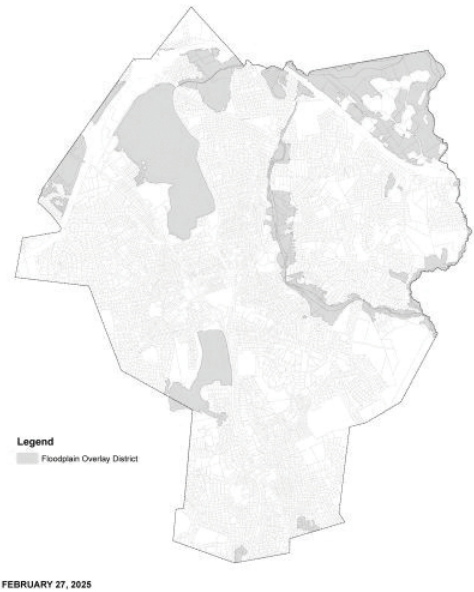
floodplain management code, regulation, ordinance, or standard adopted by the authority having jurisdiction, including any subsequent improvements to such structures. New construction includes work determined to be substantial improvement. [Referenced Standard ASCE 24-14]. RECREATIONAL VEHICLE - A vehicle which is: (a) Built on a single chassis; (b) 400 square feet or less when measured at the largest horizontal projection; (c) Designed to be self-propelled or permanently towable by a light duty truck; and (d) Designed primarily not for use as a permanent dwelling but as temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, travel, or seasonal use. [US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59]. REGULATORY FLOODWAY - see FLOODWAY. SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREA - The land area subject to flood hazards and shown on a Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard map as Zone A, AE,. [Base Code, Chapter 2, Section 202]. START OF CONSTRUCTION - The date of issuance for new construction and substantial improvements to existing structures, provided the actual start of construction, repair, reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, placement or other improvement is within 180 days after the date of issuance. The actual start of construction means the first placement of permanent construction of a building (including a manufactured home) on a site, such as the pouring of a slab or footings, installation of pilings or construction of columns. Permanent construction does not include land preparation (such as clearing, excavation, grading or filling), the installation of streets or walkways, excavation for a basement, footings, piers or foundations, the erection of temporary forms or the installation of accessory buildings such as garages or sheds not occupied as dwelling units or not part of the main building. For a substantial improvement, the actual "start of construction" means the first alteration of any wall, ceiling, floor or other structural part of a building, whether or not that alteration affects the external dimensions of the building. [Base Code, Chapter 2, Section 202]. STRUCTURE (for floodplain management purposes) - A walled and roofed building, including a gas or liquid storage tank, that is principally above ground, as well as a manufactured home. [US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59]. SUBSTANTIAL REPAIR OF A FOUNDATION - When work to repair or replace a foundation results in the repair or replacement of a portion of the foundation with a perimeter along the base of the foundation that equals or exceeds 50% of the perimeter of the base of the foundation measured in linear feet, or repair or replacement of 50% of the piles, columns or piers of a pile, column or pier supported foundation, the building official shall determine it to be substantial repair of a foundation. Applications determined by the building official to constitute substantial repair of a foundation shall require all existing portions of the entire building or structure to meet the requirements of 780 CMR. [As amended by MA in 9th Edition BC]. VARIANCE - A grant of relief by a community from the terms of a flood plain management regulation. [US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59]. VIOLATION - means the failure of a structure or other development to be fully compliant with the community's flood plain management regulations. A structure or other development without the elevation certificate, other certifications, or other evidence of compliance required in §60.3 is presumed to be in violation until

such time as that documentation is provided. [US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59]. ZONE A - An area of special flood hazard without water surface elevations determined. ZONE AE – An area of special flood hazard with water surface elevations determined. § 190 28 Development regulations. The following requirements shall apply within the Floodplain District: A. Obtaining a Special Permit from the Board of Appeals for all proposed construction or other development in the Floodplain District is required, including new construction or changes to existing buildings, placement of manufactured homes, placement of agricultural facilities, fences, sheds, storage facilities or drilling, mining, paving and any other development that might increase flooding or adversely impact flood risks to other properties. B. In addition to the Special Permit, the proponent shall also obtain all local, state and federal permits that will be necessary in order to carry out the proposed development in the Floodplain District. The proponent must acquire all necessary permits and must demonstrate that all necessary permits have been acquired prior to the issuance of a Building Permit. C. In Zones A and AE, along watercourses that have not had a regulatory floodway designated, the best available Federal, State, local, or other floodway data shall be used to prohibit encroachments in floodways which would result in any increase in flood levels within the community during the occurrence of the base flood discharge. D. In Zone AE, along watercourses that have a regulatory floodway designated on the Wakefield's FIRM encroachments are prohibited, including fill, new construction, substantial improvements, and other development within the adopted regulatory floodway unless it has been demonstrated through hydrologic and hydraulic analyses performed in accordance with standard engineering practice that the proposed encroachment would not result in any increase in flood levels within the community during the occurrence of the base flood discharge. E. In A Zone, in the absence of FEMA base flood elevation (BFE) data and floodway data, the Board will obtain, review and reasonably utilize base flood elevation and floodway data available from a Federal, State, or other source as criteria for requiring new construction, substantial improvements, or other development in Zone A as the basis for elevating residential structures to or above base flood level, for flood proofing or elevating nonresidential structures to be built at or above base flood level, and for prohibiting encroachments in floodways; F. All subdivision and development proposals must be designed to assure that: (1) Such proposals minimize flood damage; (2) All public utilities and facilities are located and constructed to minimize or eliminate flood damage; and (3) Adequate drainage is provided to reduce exposure to flood hazards. G. When proposing subdivisions or other developments greater than 50 lots or 5 acres (whichever is less), the proponent must provide technical data to determine base flood elevations for each developable parcel shown on the design plans. H. In A, A1-30, and AE Zones, all recreational vehicles to be placed on a site must be elevated and anchored in accordance with the zone's regulations for foundation and elevation requirements or be on the site for less than 180 consecutive days or be fully licensed and highway ready. I. A variance from these floodplain bylaws must meet the requirements set out by State law, and may only be granted if: (1) Good and

sufficient cause and exceptional non-financial hardship exist; (2) The variance will not result in additional threats to public safety, extraordinary public expense, or fraud or victimization of the public; and (3) The variance is the minimum action necessary to afford relief. J. The floodplain management regulations found in this Floodplain District section shall take precedence over any less restrictive conflicting local laws, ordinances or codes. K. The degree of flood protection required by this bylaw is considered reasonable but does not imply total flood protection. L. If any section, provision or portion of this bylaw is deemed to be unconstitutional or invalid by a court, the remainder of the bylaw shall be effective. § 190-29 Uses allowed within the Floodplain District. A. The following uses may be permitted in the Floodplain District by the Board of Appeals through a Special Permit: (1) Any use permitted in the underlying district in which the land is situated, subject to the same use and development regulations as may otherwise apply thereto, whether by right or by Special Permit, provided that all development, including structural and non-structural activities, are in compliance with this bylaw and with other State regulations. B. The following uses are permitted by-right within the Floodplain District when confirmed by the Town's Floodplain Administrator to not have an impact to the base flood elevation nor result in any increase in flood levels: (1) Construction and maintenance of at-grade roads, driveways, sidewalks, footpaths and recreation areas provided that they do not alter the existing topography in the Floodplain District; (2) Construction, maintenance and improvements of public sewer and water, including accessory facilities used for their operation, maintenance or improvement of ponds, ditches, and other water bodies incidental thereto; (3) Construction, maintenance and improvements to existing roads and systems used in the service of the public, including drainage, electric power (including conversion to underground facilities), gas, telephone, telegraph and other telecommunication devices; (4) Any use permitted in the underlying district in which the land is situated, subject to the same use and development restrictions as may otherwise apply thereto, provided that the land designated as being within the Floodplain District is found to be not, in fact, subject to flooding through a Letter of Map Amendment, Letter of Map Revision or physical map revision submitted to and approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. § 190-29.1 Special Permit and Site Plan Review. A. Such Special Permit shall be applied for in the manner required by the Board of Appeals but shall be super scribed "Floodplain District Special Permit Application." The Building Inspector shall issue a building permit only as directed by the Board of Appeals. B. Applications for site plan approval of uses in the Floodplain District are reviewed by the Board of Appeals and complete applications are required in accordance with § 190-45 and § 190-73. Site plans shall be at a suitable scale, prepared by a registered land surveyor or registered professional civil engineer. C. In addition to the site plan requirements in § 190-45, the site plan for projects in the Floodplain District shall include the following: (1) One-foot contours of the existing and proposed land structure based on the NAVD88 datum. (2) The location of existing and proposed structures, watercourses, drainage easements, means of access, drainage and sewer disposal facilities. (3) Limits

of the Base Flood Elevation and Floodway. (4) Foundation elevations of existing proposed buildings and security of foundations during flooding, including assurance that foundations would not be undermined and that the proposed building would not be floated off, swept away or battered off during flooding. (5) Cut and fill calculations for floodplain volume being modified by the proposed project, prepared by a registered professional engineer, detailed in tabular format, in 1-foot incremental elevations of fill and storage volumes in cubic feet, with cut and fill areas shown on a plan demonstrating no loss in floodplain storage. Certain cases may require the cut and fill calculations to be completed at a 0.5-foot increments and for cross section(s) through the site to be provided. (6) Drainage calculations for all runoff within the site in accordance with the § 170 Storm Drain System; Stormwater Management. (7) Hydrologic and Hydraulic analysis in accordance with standard engineering practice as may be needed to demonstrate compliance with this bylaw. D. The Planning Board and Conservation Commission shall submit to the Board written recommendations as to whether the Special Permit should be granted and any recommended restrictions that should be imposed upon the proposed use as a condition of such Special Permit. E. The Board of Appeals, in hearing each such application, shall consider, in addition to any other factors said Board deems pertinent, the following aspects with respect to flooding and Floodplain Overlay District zoning provisions: (1) Geographic location of proposed building and security of driveway or walkway access to it during flooding. (2) Foundation elevations of proposed buildings and security of foundations during flooding, including assurance that foundations would not be undermined and that the proposed building would not be floated off, swept away or battered off during flooding. (3) Disposal of sewage from the proposed buildings and containment of sewage during flooding. (4) Safety of water, sewage, gas, electric and fuel utilities from breaking, leaking, short-circuiting, grounding, igniting, electrocution or other dangers during flooding. (5) Operation of drainage mitigation measures for the site during flooding events. (6) Probable effect and/or impact upon the Town's water supply; (7) Potential impacts to overall groundwater and surface water quality; (8) The natural flow pattern of watercourses; nearby or pertinent floodwater storage areas or other areas subject to seasonal or periodic flooding; (9) The general health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the Town of Wakefield. F. Notification of watercourse alteration. In a situation relating to, formed by, or resembling a river, including tributaries, stream, or brook, the Town Engineer shall notify the following of any alteration or relocation of a watercourse: (1) Adjacent communities; (2) NFIP State Coordinator, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (3) NFIP Program Specialist - Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region I. G. If the Town of Wakefield acquires data that changes the base flood elevation in the FEMA mapped Special Flood Hazard Areas, the Town Engineer will, within 6 months, notify FEMA of these changes by submitting the technical or scientific data that supports the change(s). Notification shall be submitted to: (1) NFIP State Coordinator, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. (2) NFIP Program Specialist - Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region I. H. If the State issues a variance

to the flood resistant standards as found in the state building code, the Town will request from the State Building Code Appeals Board a written and/or audible copy of the portion of the hearing related to the variance and will maintain this record in the Town files. The Town shall also issue a letter to the property owner regarding potential impacts to the annual premiums for the flood insurance policy covering that property, in writing over the signature of a community official that (i) the issuance of a variance to construct a structure below the base flood level will result in increased premium rates for flood insurance up to amounts as high as $25 for $100 of insurance coverage and (ii) such construction below the base flood level increases risks to life and property. Such notification shall be maintained with the record of all variance actions for the referenced development in the floodplain overlay district, or to see what the Town will do about it.
Town Council



MOTION: Town Engineer William Renault moved that the Town amend the Zoning Bylaw and Map as described in this Article. The motion was seconded. The Planning Board made a favorable recommendation.
VOTE: Unanimous
Motion passed.

ARTICLE 18. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaws by: 1. Striking "Chapter 190, Section 22, A (1) (f) Accessory Apartments" in its entirety; 2. adding in its place within the Zoning Bylaw, Chapter 190, Section 22, A (1) (f) of the Code of the Town, the following text: (f) Accessory Dwelling Unit – 1. Purpose and Intent. A. Increase the number of dwelling units available for use and occupancy in Town; B. Adapt properties that are situated in a Single-Family Residential Zoning District so they are supportive of residents at a variety of stages in their lifecycle; C. Encourage greater

diversity and support of all populations with particular attention to young adults, senior citizens, and those with disabilities; D. Encourage a more economic and efficient use of the Town's housing supply while maintaining the appearance and character of the Town's single-family neighborhoods; and, E. Provide homeowners with a means of obtaining rental income to defray housing costs. 2. Definitions. These definitions are applicable only to Section 22 and do not have applicability to other Sections of the Zoning Bylaw. A. Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU). A self-contained housing unit, inclusive of sleeping, cooking and sanitary facilities on the same Lot as a Principal Dwelling, subject to otherwise applicable dimensional and parking requirements, that: (i) maintains a separate entrance, either directly from the outside or through an entry hall or corridor shared with the Principal Dwelling sufficient to meet the requirements of the state building code for safe egress; and, (ii) except as provided for herein, is not larger in Gross Floor Area than 1/2 the Gross Floor Area of the Principal Dwelling or 900 square feet, whichever is smaller. B. Bus Station. Any location serving as a point of embarkation for any bus operated by a Transit Authority. C. Commuter Rail Station. Any commuter rail station operated by a Transit Authority with year-round service with trains departing at regular time intervals, rather than intermittent, seasonal, or event-based service. D. Dwelling Unit. A single housing unit providing complete, independent living facilities for one or more persons, including permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking and sanitation. E. Gross Floor Area (GFA). The sum of the areas of all stories of the building of compliant ceiling height pursuant to the Building Code, including basements, lofts, and intermediate floored tiers, measured from the interior faces of exterior walls or from the centerline of walls separating buildings or dwelling units but excluding crawl spaces, garage parking areas, attics, enclosed porches and similar spaces. Where there are multiple Principal Dwellings on the Lot, the GFA of the largest Principal Dwelling shall be used for determining the maximum size of a Protected Use ADU. F. Modular Dwelling Unit. A pre-designed Dwelling Unit assembled and equipped with internal plumbing, electrical or similar systems prior to movement to the site where such Dwelling Unit is affixed to a foundation and connected to external utilities; or any portable structure with walls, a floor, and a roof, designed or used as a Dwelling Unit, transportable in one or more sections and affixed to a foundation and connected to external utilities. A Modular Dwelling Unit shall not include a manufactured home, as defined under M.G.L. c. 140, s. 32Q. G. Principal Dwelling. A structure, regardless of whether it conforms to Zoning, including use requirements and dimensional requirements, such as setbacks, bulk, and height, that contains at least one Dwelling Unit and is located on the same Lot as a Protected Use ADU. H. Prohibited Regulation. Zoning or general ordinances or by-laws, or Municipal regulations, that are prohibited pursuant to 760 CMR 71.03(2). I. Protected Use Accessory Dwelling Unit (PADU). An attached or detached ADU that is located, or is proposed to be located, on a Lot in a Single-family Residential Zoning District and is protected by M.G.L. c. 40A, § 3, provided that only one ADU on a lot may qualify as a Protected Use ADU. An ADU that is nonconforming to Zoning shall still qualify as a Protected Use ADU if it otherwise meets this definition. J.

Short-term Rental. Short-term rental, as defined in M.G.L. c. 64G, s. 1. Any unit rented for 31 days or less to any one individual renter/tenant shall be deemed a short-term rental. K. Single-family Residential Dwelling. A structure on a Lot containing not more than one Dwelling Unit. L. Single-Family Residential Zoning District. Any Zoning District where Single-family Residential Dwellings are a permitted or an allowable use, including any Zoning District where Single-Family Residential Dwellings are allowed as-of-right or by Special Permit. M. Site Plan Review. A process established by local ordinance or by-law by which a Municipal board or authority may review and impose terms and conditions on the appearance and layout of a proposed use of land or structures prior to the issuance of a building permit. N. Transit Authority. The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority established by M.G.L. c. 161A, § 2 or other local or regional transit authority established pursuant to M.G.L. c. 161B, § 3 or M.G.L. c. 161B, § 14. O. Transit Station. A Subway Station, Commuter Rail Station, Ferry Terminal, or Bus Station. P. Unreasonable Regulation. Zoning or general ordinances or by-laws, or Municipal regulations, that are unreasonable pursuant to 760 CMR 71.03(3). Q. Use and Occupancy Restrictions. A Zoning restriction, Municipal regulation, covenant, agreement, or a condition in a deed, zoning approval or other requirement imposed by the Municipality that limits the current, or future, use or occupancy of the Protected Use ADU to individuals or households based upon the characteristics of, or relations between, the occupants, such as but not limited to, income, age, familial relationship, or enrollment in an educational institution, or that limits the number of occupants beyond what is required by applicable state code. 3. Procedural Requirements – A. A Protected Use Accessory Dwelling Unit (PADU) that conforms to the requirements contained herein shall be permitted "as-of-right," as defined in M.G.L.c.40A, § 1A, as an accessory use to a Principal Dwelling. This shall not be subject to a Special Permit, or any other discretionary zoning approval from the Zoning Board of Appeals, as long as it meets the criteria herein. B. An application to obtain a building permit for a PADU shall include a site plan, floor plans, and elevations that meet all requirements as laid out by the Town's Building Inspector to reflect all changes. The application shall be submitted showing all proposed interior and/or exterior changes to existing buildings or new buildings and improvements on a lot associated with a proposed PADU. C. Accessory apartments, of any size, previously allowed pursuant to a Special Permit and/or Variance granted by the Zoning Board of Appeals, shall be deemed a Protected Use ADU hereunder and shall not be subject to any conditions stated in said Special Permit and/or Variance that conflict with the bylaw herein, including but not limited to owner occupancy, number of tenants, familial tenancy, and parking spaces. Furthermore, any Restrictive Covenant conditions recorded at the Middlesex South Registry of Deeds related to said accessory apartment that contains a Prohibited Regulation, as defined herein, shall be deemed null and void and have no further force and/or effect. Finally, no additional ADUs shall be permitted on a lot with a previously approved accessory apartment. D. If the proposed PADU is located in a Floodplain District, the construction of a PADU shall be subject to the provisions and requirements of Article V of the Zoning Bylaw. E.

PADUs that require an off-street parking space shall be subject to Site Plan Approval administered by the Zoning Board of Appeals. No Unreasonable Regulations, terms or conditions shall be placed upon the PADU as part of the Site Plan Approval in that PADUs are "as-of-right" as defined in M.G.L. c. 40A, § 1A. F. An applicant may request relief from limitations set forth in this Bylaw, including those regarding Gross Floor Area and setbacks, by seeking a Special Permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals, provided that no Special Permit shall allow more than one ADU on a Lot. The Zoning Board of Appeals shall not impose any conditions in conflict with 760 CMR: 71.03. 4. Use and Dimensional Requirements – A. One (1) Protected Use Accessory Dwelling Unit (PADU) shall be permitted per lot in a Single-Family Residential Zoning District as an accessory use to a Principal Dwelling. No additional ADUs shall be permitted on the Lot. This provision shall not be subject to a variance or Special Permit. B. The use of a Lot or structures thereon shall not require owner-occupancy, number of bedrooms restrictions, limitations to the number of tenants, or require familial tenancy in the Principal Dwelling or PADU consistent with 760 CMR 71.03. C. Except as otherwise stated herein, the PADU shall not exceed 900 square feet or half of the Gross Floor Area of the Principal Dwelling, whichever is smaller, in total square footage. A property owner may increase the size to a maximum of 1,200 square feet by obtaining a Special Permit to do so from the Zoning Board of Appeals. D. PADUs or the Principal Dwelling they are accessory to shall not be used as a Short-Term Rental. E. A PADU within a Principal Dwelling shall be accessed through a shared lobby/entry hall with the Principal Dwelling or a dedicated exterior entrance, separate from that of the Principal Dwelling. F. A PADU that is attached to the Principal Dwelling shall meet the setback requirements for the Principal Dwelling applicable in the zoning district in which the lot is located. A PADU that is detached from the Principal Dwelling must meet the setback requirements for an accessory building set forth in Section 190-31.C (5). G. PADUs, whether part of the Principal Dwelling or detached from it, shall not be subject to the maximum building coverage regulation, FAR, or minimum lot size as outlined by the Table 2 "Table of Dimensional Regulations" of the Zoning Bylaw. H. The construction of a PADU shall not require the existing Principal Dwelling or an existing detached Accessory Building in which the PADU is proposed to be located to be brought into compliance with either the use or dimensional requirements of the current Zoning Bylaw including, but not limited to, those as outlined in Table 2 "Table of Dimensional Regulations" of the Zoning Bylaw. I. If the detached PADU is located over a garage, the first-floor garage space, unless dedicated to the PADU, is not included in the overall square footage limitations contained herein. J. A detached PADU is permitted to be a Modular Dwelling Unit and installed on a permanent foundation. This clause shall not supersede any Building Code requirements. 5. Parking Requirements – A. There is a zero (0) parking requirement for PADUs constructed on a Lot within a half (0.5) mile radius of any Transit Station. A Lot shall be considered to be within the half mile radius if any portion of the Lot touches that half mile radius from the location of the Transit Station. B. One (1) space per unit shall be provided on-site if all

portions of the Lot are located outside of a half (0.5) mile radius from a Transit Station; or to see what the Town will do about it.
Planning Board

MOTION: Town Planner Samantha Eliot moved that the Town vote to accept Zoning Amendment ADU as described in the Recommendation Book, with correction(s) as noted. The motion was seconded. The Planning Board recommended favorable action.
VOTE: Motion passed.

ARTICLE 19. To see if the Town will vote to approve a Town Meeting Action ("Action"), to be recorded in Chapter A704 Miscellaneous Town Meeting Votes of the Town's Code, which Action shall provide as follows: Prohibition Against Using Town Resources to Enable Violations of Human Rights and International Law by Israel: For as long as the State of Israel ("Israel") remains in violation of international law or international human rights law, as has been determined by the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, most recently in its Advisory Opinion of 10 July 2024 in Case 186, the Town (1) shall not purchase Israel Bonds or other securities issued by Israel; and (2) shall not purchase goods or services from, or invest or deposit funds directly in, any company or financial institution that is complicit in Israel's violations of international law and human rights ("Complicit Company") as part of Israel's illegal occupation, settlement, or annexation of Syrian, Lebanese, or Palestinian territories, or as part of Israeli apartheid, as detailed in the United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/ES-10/24, adopted 19 September 2024, including, but not limited to, those companies and financial institutions listed in the Occupations section of the Investigate project of the American Friends Service Committee, available online at https://investigate.afsc.org/occupations; and (3) shall not purchase goods or services that are designed, patented, manufactured, or otherwise made by a Complicit Company, even if such goods or services would be sold to the Town by a dealer, licensee, or other type of reseller ("Reseller") that is not itself a Complicit Company (for example, the Town shall not purchase or lease computers made by a Complicit Company, even if those computers would be sold or leased to the Town by an office supplier acting as a Reseller for that Complicit Company; and for example, the Town shall not lease or purchase vehicles from a local dealer if such vehicles are made by a Complicit Company); and (4) shall include a copy of the text of this Action in all public announcements (IFB, RFS, RFP, RFQ, etc.) issued by the Town to comply with state public procurement laws ("Bids"), and shall explicitly require all respondents to Bids to certify that, if awarded a contract resulting from a Bid, they will not, in fulfilling the contract, purchase goods or services made by a Complicit Company (for example, a contractor responding to a public building construction Bid would be required to certify that, if awarded, a contract resulting from that Bid, they will not rent equipment made by a Complicit Company to fulfill that contract); and (5) shall, through its Finance Committee and within one year of the effective date of this Action ("Effective Date"), produce a written plan to comply with this Action within

two years of the Effective Date in cases where the immediate cessation of Town purchases from a Complicit Company or Reseller would incur financial penalties due to early termination of a contract, or would disrupt essential Town operations, or would case a material increase in the cost of goods or services essential to Town operations; and (6) shall not permit any officer of the Wakefield Police Department to receive training from Israeli police departments, Israeli military units, or trainers who provide training to such departments or units; and (7) shall still be permitted to transfer assets of the Wakefield Retirement System to the Massachusetts Pension Reserves Investment Management ("Mass PRIM") Board for investment in its aggregate PRIT Fund, notwithstanding any forgoing section of the Action; and (8) shall certify in all future Annual Reports of the Town that the Town complied with this Action during the report year; or to see what the Town will do about it.
Citizen Petition

MOTION: Wakefield Citizen Marco Sukkar moved that the Town vote to accept the language of the Article as described in the Recommendation Book. The motion was seconded.
During discussion, Mr. Daniel Lieber, 1 Elm Street, presented a "letter" to the attendees.
VOTE: Motion Failed
A motion was made at 8:58 p.m.to dissolve Town Meeting. The motion was seconded. The motion passed.

Regular Town Meeting, November 8, 2025
The Regular Town Meeting was held in the auditorium at the Galvin Middle School, 525 Main Street in said Wakefield on Saturday, the eighth day of November, 2025, at eight o'clock in the morning, then and there to act on the following Articles. Town Moderator William H. Carroll called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. There were ninety-eight (98) registered voters in attendance. Town meeting tellers were sworn in by Betsy Sheeran, Town Clerk.

Town Moderator Carroll accepted the Warrant and the Return of Service from Betsy Sheeran, Town Clerk. Betsy Sheeran, Town Clerk, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Town Moderator moved that the following non-residents be allowed to speak to Articles: Mark Bobrowski, Denise Casey, Joseph Conway, William Renault and Elizabeth Rourke. The motion was seconded. The motion passed.

Denise Y. Casey, Town Administrator, presented the Financial Up-date.

ARTICLE 1. To see if the Town will hear and accept a report of the Fiscal Year 2025 budget; or to see what the Town will do about it.
Town Administrator

MOTION: A motion was made to allow Denise Y. Casey, a non-resident, to speak to Articles 1 and 2. The motion was seconded. Motion passed.

MOTION: Town Administrator Denise Y. Casey moved that the Town vote to accept a report of the Fiscal Year 2025 budget. The motion was seconded.
VOTE: Motion passed

ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Assessors to use such free cash as may be in the Treasury or any part thereof in computing the tax rate for the fiscal period ending June 30, 2026; or to see what the Town will do about it.
Town Council

MOTION: Town Administrator Denise Y. Casey moved that the Town authorize the Board of Assessors to use $4,050,000.00 in Free Cash in computing the tax rate for Fiscal Year 2026. The motion was seconded. The Finance Committee recommended favorable action.
VOTE: Motion passed.

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate by transfer from available funds including water retained earnings and sewer retained earnings to supplement the Water and/or Sewer Budget for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026; or to see what the Town will do about it.
Town Council

MOTION: Mehreen Butt, Town Council, moved that the Town appropriate $0.00 by transfer from Sewer Retained Earnings and $225,000.00 from Water Retained Earnings in order to carry out the purpose of this Article. The motion was seconded. The Finance Committee recommended favorable action.
VOTE: Motion passed.

ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Council, on behalf of the Town, to petition the Legislature for passage of special legislation substantially as provided below, provided that the Legislature may reasonably vary the form and substance of the requested legislation within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition: AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF WAKEFIELD TO ESTABLISH A MEANS TESTED SENIOR CITIZEN PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION. SECTION 1. With respect to each qualifying parcel of real property classified as class one, residential in the town of Wakefield there shall be an exemption from the property tax in an amount to be set annually by the board of assessors as provided in section 3. The exemption shall be applied to the domicile of the taxpayer only. For the purposes of this act, "parcel" shall be a unit of real property as defined by the board of assessors under the deed for the property and shall include a condominium unit. The exemption provided for herein shall be in addition to any and all other exemptions allowed by the General Laws. SECTION 2. The board of assessors may deny an application if they find the applicant has excessive assets that place the applicant

outside the category of intended recipients of the senior exemption created by this act. Real property shall qualify for the exemption under section 1 if all of the following criteria are met: (a) The qualifying real property is owned and occupied by a person whose prior year's income would make the person eligible for the circuit breaker income tax credit under section 6(k) of chapter 62 of the General Laws; (b) The qualifying real property is owned by a single applicant age 65 or older at the close of the previous year or jointly by persons either of whom is age 65 or above at the close of the previous year and if the joint applicant is 60 years of age or older; (c) The qualifying real property is owned and occupied by the applicant or joint applicants as their domicile; (d) The applicant or at least 1 of the joint applicants has been domiciled and owned a home in the town of Wakefield for at least 10 consecutive years before filing an application for the exemption; (e) The assessed value of the domicile is no greater than the prior year's maximum assessed value for qualification for the circuit breaker income tax credit under section 6(k) of chapter 62 of the General Laws as adjusted annually by the Department of Revenue; and (f) The board of assessors has approved the application. SECTION 3. The board of assessors shall annually set the exemption amount provided for in section 1, provided that the amount of the exemption shall be up to 100% of the amount of the circuit breaker income tax credit under section 6(k) of chapter 62 of the General Laws for which the applicant qualified in the previous year as determined by the Board of Assessors. The total amount exempted by this act shall be allocated proportionally within the tax levy on all residential taxpayers. SECTION 4. A person who seeks to qualify for the exemption under section 1 shall, before the deadline established by the board of assessors, file an application, on a form to be adopted by the board of assessors, with the supporting documentation of the applicant's income and assets as described in the application. The application shall be filed each year for which the applicant seeks the exemption. SECTION 5. No exemption shall be granted under this act until the Department of Revenue certifies a residential tax rate for the applicable tax year where the total exemption amount is raised by a burden shift within the residential tax levy. SECTION 6. This act shall expire after 3 years of implementation of the exemption; or to see what the Town will do about it.
Town Council

MOTION: Mehreen Butt, Town Council, moved that the Town authorize the Town Council to petition the State Legislature to enact Special Legislation as described in this Article. The motion was seconded. The Finance Committee recommended favorable action.
VOTE: Motion passed.

ARTICLE 5. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sufficient sum of money to make repairs to Middlesex Court and Middlesex Street, private ways within the Town, in accordance with the provisions of G.L. c. 80, § 175-10 of the Code of the Town or otherwise, and to determine whether to fund the appropriation by borrowing or otherwise and over what period of time to assess betterments; or to see what the Town will do about it.
Town Council

MOTION: Mehreen Butt, Town Council, moved that the Town appropriate the sum of $250,000.00 to make specific repairs to Middlesex Court and Middlesex Street, private ways within the Town, such repairs being required by public necessity and convenience; that betterments be assessed to the property owners benefitted thereby over a period of up to twenty (20) years; and that to raise this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Town Council, is authorized to borrow the said sum under and pursuant to G.L. c.44, section 7 or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor. The motion was seconded. The Finance Committee recommended favorable action. This Article requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote.
VOTE: Yes: 70; No: 1. Motion passed.

ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Council, pursuant to G.L. c. 40, § 14 and any other applicable authority, to accept a grant of drainage easements on the properties known and numbered as 15 Traverse Street and 100 Nahant Street, Wakefield, Massachusetts, and to raise and appropriate the sum of $1 to carry out the purpose of this article; or to see what the Town will do about it.
Town Council

MOTION: Mehreen Butt, Town Council, moved that the Town authorize the Town Council, pursuant to G.L. c.40, section 14 and any other applicable authority, to accept a grant of drainage easements on the properties known and numbered as 15 Traverse Street and 100 Nahant Street, Wakefield, MA, and to raise and appropriate the sum of $1.00 to carry out the purpose of this Article. The Finance Committee recommended favorable action. This Article requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote. The motion was seconded. The Finance Committee recommended favorable action.
VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 7. To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 147 of the General Bylaws, entitled "Sidewalk Cafes," by adding the following: "§ 147-15. Enforcement. "Compliance with the terms of a sidewalk cafe street use permit shall be enforced by the Police Department. Whoever violates such terms, or operates a sidewalk cafe without such a permit, shall forfeit and pay to the Town a fine in the amount of $100 for the first offense, $200 for the second offense occurring within one year from the first offense, and $300 for each offense occurring thereafter within one year of the first offense. Each day, or portion thereof, that any violation continues shall constitute a separate offense. Any such violation may, in the sole discretion of the Police Department, be made the subject matter of noncriminal disposition proceedings under MGL c. 40, § 21D. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to limit any other means of enforcement."; or to see what the Town will do about it.
Bylaw Review Committee

MOTION: Daniel Lieber, Chair of the Bylaw Review Committee moved that the Town vote to amend Chapter 147 of the General Bylaws, entitled "Sidewalk Cafes," by adding the text set forth in Article 7 of the Warrant. The motion was seconded.
VOTE: Motion passed.

ARTICLE 8. To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 148 of the General Bylaws, entitled "Newsracks," by deleting § 148-4.B(10) and replacing it with the following: "A newsrack may be deemed abandoned if no printed material is found in the newsrack for a period of more than 15 consecutive days. Any newsrack deemed abandoned may be removed."; or to see what the Town will do about it.
Bylaw Review Committee

MOTION: Daniel Lieber, Chair of the Bylaw Review Committee moved that the Town vote to amend Chapter 148 of the General Bylaws, entitled "Newsracks," as set forth in Article 8 of the Warrant. The motion was seconded.
VOTE: Motion passed.

ARTICLE 9. To see if the Town will vote to amend § 191-4 of the General Bylaws, entitled "Procedure for designating scenic roads," by deleting line "C" thereof, which provides: "Notify the Commissioners of Middlesex County," and re-lettering the remaining lines "A" through "D,"; or to see what the Town will do about it.
Bylaw Review Committee

MOTION: Daniel Lieber, Chair of the Bylaw Review Committee, moved that the Town vote to amend Chapter 154-9 of the General Bylaws, entitled "Marijuana Establishments Forbidden," as set forth in Article 9 of the Warrant. The motion was seconded.
VOTE: Motion passed.

ARTICLE 10. To see if the Town will vote to amend and recodify the Zoning Bylaw by taking the following steps: 1. Amend Chapter 190 by deleting, in their entirety, the following provisions of the existing Zoning By-law, but NOT the current Zoning Map, or take any action relative thereto: ARTICLE I: TITLE, AUTHORITY AND PURPOSE; ARTICLE II: DEFINITIONS; ARTICLE III: DISTRICTS; ARTICLE IV: USE REGULATIONS; ARTICLE V: FLOODPLAIN DISTRICT; ARTICLE VI: DIMENSIONAL REGULATIONS; ARTICLE VII: PARKING AND LOADING REQUIREMENTS; ARTICLE VIII: SPECIAL PERMITS AND SITE PLAN REVIEW; ARTICLE IX: NONCONFORMING USES; ARTICLE X: ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT; ARTICLE XI: ADOPTION AND AMENDMENT; SEVERABILITY; WHEN EFFECTIVE; ARTICLE XII: FEES AND SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS; ARTICLE XIII: SIGNS; ARTICLE XIV: WIRELESS COMMUNICATION SERVICES OVERLAY DISTRICT; ARTICLE XV: RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT; ARTICLE XVI: SIGNAGE OVERLAY DISTRICT; ARTICLE XVII: ASSISTED

LIVING FACILITY OVERLAY DISTRICT; ARTICLE XVIII: REGISTERED MARIJUANA DISPENSARIES; ARTICLE XIX: TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON MARIJUANA ESTABLISHMENTS; Article XX: MBTA COMMUNITIES OVERLAY DISTRICT. 2. Amend Chapter 190 by substituting the following provisions in the document entitled "WAKEFIELD ZONING BYLAW, DRAFT 11" as shown in the handout entitled, "September 22, 2025 Annual Town Meeting: Zoning Bylaw Recodification," and by renumbering the provision referencing the existing Zoning Map to Section 2.0, on file in the office of the Town Clerk: SECTION 1.0 Purpose and Authority; SECTION 2.0 Districts; SECTION 3.0 Use Regulations; SECTION 4.0 Dimensional Regulations; SECTION 5.0 Nonconforming Uses and Structures; SECTION 6.0 General Regulations; SECTION 7.0 Special Regulations; SECTION 8.0 Special Residential Regulations; SECTION 9.0 Special and Overlay Districts; SECTION 10.0 Administration and Enforcement; SECTION 11.0 Definitions; or to see what the Town will do about it.
Bylaw Review Committee

MOTION: Daniel Lieber, Chair of the Bylaw Review Committee, moved that the Town vote to amend Chapter 191-4 of the General Bylaws, entitled "Procedure for designing scenic roads," as set forth in Article 10 of the Warrant. The motion was seconded.
VOTE: Motion passed.

ARTICLE 11. To see if the Town will vote to hear the report of the Bylaw Review Committee, accept it as the final report of the committee, and discharge the committee; or to see what the Town will do about it.
Bylaw Review Committee

MOTION: Daniel Lieber, Chair of the Bylaw Review Committee moved that the Town vote to re-codify the Zoning Bylaw by taking the following steps: 1. Delete, in their entirety, the following provisions of the existing Zoning Bylaw, Articles 1-XX but NOT the Zoning map; and 2. Substitute the following provisions in the document entitled, "Wakefield Zoning Bylaw, Draft 11" as shown in the handout entitled "September 22, 2025 : Zoning Bylaw Recodification," and by renumbering the provision referencing the existing Zoning Map to Section 2.0, on file in the office of the Town Clerk: Sections 1.0-11.0. The motion was seconded. The Planning Board recommended favorable action. This Article requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote.
VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 12. To see if the Town will vote to hear the report of the Bylaw Review Committee, accept it as the final report of the committee, and discharge the committee, or to see what the Town will do about it.
Bylaw Review Committee

MOTION: Daniel Lieber, Chair of the Bylaw Review Committee moved that the Town vote to accept the report of the Bylaw Review Committee as its final report, and discharge the committee with thanks. The motion was seconded.
VOTE: Motion passed.

At 8:49 a.m., a motion was made to dissolve Town Meeting. The motion was seconded. The motion passed.

Annual Town Election - April 22, 2025								
	PRECINCT 1	PRECINCT 2	PRECINCT 3	PRECINCT 4	PRECINCT 5	PRECINCT 6	PRECINCT 7	TOTAL
Registered voters	2779	2902	3060	2878	3147	3038	2931	20735
Voters	253	237	302	315	368	413	439	2327
TOWN COUNCIL								
JONATHAN CHINES	117	126	179	182	222	230	225	1281
STACEY S. CONSTAS	140	128	198	189	230	254	266	1405
JOHN F. CRISLEY	124	125	183	210	198	235	230	1305
Total number of write-ins	33	18	23	20	26	50	32	202
Times Blank Voted	345	314	323	344	428	470	564	2788
Total Ballots	253	237	302	315	368	413	439	2327
TOWN TREASURER								
EDWARD F. DOMBROSKI, JR.	98	75	111	114	104	121	161	784
ANDREW MCCARTHY	64	89	69	96	94	71	95	578
MICHAEL J. MCLANE	51	47	74	57	122	184	126	661
PETER MCMANAMA	37	24	47	42	47	33	54	284
Total number of write-ins	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Times Blank Voted	3	2	1	6	0	4	3	19
Total Ballots	253	237	302	315	368	413	439	2327
SCHOOL COMMITTEE								
KEVIN FONTANELLA	131	122	196	191	226	241	245	1352
THOMAS F. MARKHAM, III	135	143	194	193	224	246	244	1379
ALEXANDER NAUMANN	123	123	188	190	214	239	247	1324
Total number of write-ins	7	1	3	7	2	6	4	30
Times Blank Voted	363	322	325	364	438	507	577	2896
Total Ballots	253	237	302	315	368	413	439	2327

	PRECINCT 1	PRECINCT 2	PRECINCT 3	PRECINCT 4	PRECINCT 5	PRECINCT 6	PRECINCT 7	TOTAL
MUNICIPAL GAS & LIGHT COMMISSIONER								
THOMAS H. BOETTCHER	149	137	201	210	227	245	241	1410
SHARON SQUILLACE DALY	139	127	196	200	223	239	240	1364
Total number of write-ins	1	2	4	0	2	1	1	11
Times Blank Voted	217	208	203	220	284	341	396	1869
Total Ballots	253	237	302	315	368	413	439	2327
BOARD OF ASSESSORS								
BRIAN DONEGAN	146	132	196	199	229	246	238	1386
Total number of write-ins	0	1	1	1	2	0	1	6
Times Blank Voted	107	104	105	115	137	167	200	935
Total Ballots	253	237	302	315	368	413	439	2327
LIBRARY TRUSTEES								
CHRISTOPHER M. BARRETT	163	146	213	212	248	274	278	1534
JEFFREY M. QUINN	143	127	193	192	221	238	245	1359
KAREN ANNE SADLER	145	129	196	204	226	244	257	1401
Total number of write-ins	1	1	0	0	2	2	1	7
Times Blank Voted	307	308	304	337	407	481	536	2680
Total Ballots	253	237	302	315	368	413	439	2327
PLANNING BOARD								
KRISTIN MARIA WEEKLEY	140	137	201	200	223	240	239	1380
Total number of write-ins	0	0	2	4	2	0	1	9
Times Blank Voted	113	100	99	111	143	173	199	938
Total Ballots	253	237	302	315	368	413	439	2327
BOARD OF HEALTH								
ELAINE M. SILVA	157	142	218	223	237	259	258	1494
Total number of write-ins	0	2	1	2	3	0	1	9
Times Blank Voted	96	93	83	90	128	154	180	824
Total Ballots	253	237	302	315	368	413	439	2327
CONSTABLE								
CHRISTIAN KEVIN LOPES	139	149	195	203	175	229	225	1315
MICHAEL JOSEPH VISELLI	69	49	68	59	119	101	118	583
Total number of write-ins	0	1	0	1	2	3	0	7
Times Blank Voted	45	38	39	52	72	80	96	422
Total Ballots	253	237	302	315	368	413	439	2327

Special Town Election: June 24, 2025								
	PRECINCT 1	PRECINCT 2	PRECINCT 3	PRECINCT 4	PRECINCT 5	PRECINCT 6	PRECINCT 7	TOTAL
Registered voters	2788	2890	3036	2857	3133	3033	2928	20665
Voters	162	163	229	174	289	258	260	1535
TOWN COUNCIL								
BRIAN E. FOX	73	51	89	67	83	97	80	540
SAMUEL JAMES HOCKENBURY	36	65	86	59	88	72	78	484
GERARD WILLIAM LEEMAN	53	47	54	48	117	89	102	510
Total number of write-ins	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Times Blank Voted	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Ballots	162	163	229	174	289	258	260	1535

Vital Statistics
Births: 312
Deaths: 328
Marriages: 134

FINANCE

Reports of:
Retirement Board
Town Accountnt
Treasurer's Office
Wakefield Community Access TV (WCAT)

REPORT OF THE RETIREMENT BOARD

Summary of activity for the year ending December 31, 2025

Investment Schedule

PRIT Cash Fund	$61,544.80
PRIT Capital Fund	$202,839,110.24
Cash-Checking Account	$925,636.17
Cash-Payroll Account	$5,731.46
Accounts Receivable	$41,530.92
Accounts Payable	($7,866.37)
Total	$203,865,687.22

Pension and Annuity Payments

Pension Accumulation Fund	$11,148,708.80
Annuity Reserve Fund	$2,434,512.04
Total Payments	$13,583,220.84

Number of Retirees and Beneficiaries by Type

Superannuation	296
Accidental Disability	28
Ordinary Disability	3
Accidental Death	4
Surviving Spouses	43
Total	374

Members of the Board include: Sherri A. Dalton; Kevin Gill; Erin Kokinda; Scott Morrison; and Daniel W. Sherman. Cathy Cheek serves as the Executive Director.

REPORT OF THE TOWN ACCOUNTANT

Statement of Assets and Liabilities; Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances; Statement of Appropriation and Expenditure by Department; Statement of Indebtedness.

The combined Balance Sheet, Statement of Revenue, Expenditure and Changes in Fund Balances, Statement of Appropriations and Expenditures by Department, and the Statement of Indebtedness are presented on the following pages. The Town's General Fund is used to account for the basic operating activities such as administration, public safety, public works, education, human services, culture and recreation. The Non-major Governmental Funds are used to account for financial resources allocated by law, contract, or designated to a specific purpose.

The accounting firm of CBIZ, Certified Public Accountants, currently audits the Town's annual financial statements. The complete financial statements and the auditors' report are available from the Town Accountant and are on file in the Accounting office. Copies of all financial reports and ledgers are available upon request during normal business hours.

Elizabeth Rourke,
Town Accountant

General Fund – Intergovernmental Breakdown	
Medicaid Reimbursement	(135,570.00)
Abatements – Veterans	(61,335.00)
Abatements – Blind	(117,616.00)
Abatements – Elderly	(186,970.00)
Charter Schools	(318,276.00)
Chapter 70	(8,893,073.00)
Construction of School Project	-
Veterans Benefits	-
Unrestricted General Aid	(4,148,234.00)
State Owned Land	(58,152.00)
Other State Revenue	-
Homeless Transportation	-
FEMA Reimbursement	(76,179.00)
Receipt of Prior Period	(1,368.00)
Retiree Health CH32B	-
Intergovernmental Total	**(13,996,773.00)**

Reserve Fund Transfer Analysis Fiscal 2025			
Available Fiscal 2025			**$400,000.00**
Voted June 29, 2025			
Building	Salaries	18,000.00	
DPW – Butler Ave	Expense	75,000.00	
Election	Expense	22,200.00	
General Insurance	Expense	40,000.00	
Medicare	Expense	10,000.00	
Town Clerk	Expense	8,100.00	
Town Council	Expense	32,000.00	
Vocational Schools	Expense	38,000.00	
Workers Comp	Expense	10,000.00	
		Total Request	**253,300.00**
		Remaining Balance	**146,700.00**

Governmental Funds Balance Sheet June 30, 2025					
	General	Capital Projects	Town Special Revenue	Nonmajor Gov Funds	Total Gov Funds
Assets					
Cash and Cash Equivalents	$21,279,268	$36,115,707	$8,746,056	$10,320,304	$76,461,335
Investments	0	0	0	1,309,178	1,307,178
Receivables, Net of Uncollectibles:					
Real Estate and Personal Prop. Taxes	1,393,939	0	0	0	1,393,939
Tax Liens	782,309	0	0	0	782,309
Motor Vehicle	631,135	0	0	0	631,135
Excise Taxes					
Departmental and Other	0	0	0	0	0
Intergovernmental Other	0	0	0	1,053,123	1,053,123
Tax Foreclosures	414,446	0	0	0	414,446
Total Assets	**$24,501,097**	**$36,115,707**	**$8,746,056**	**$12,682,605**	**$82,045,465**
Liabilities					
Warrants Payable	$479,995	$0	$262,444	$28,538	$770,977
Other Liabilities	949,365	0	0	0	949,365
Notes Payable	0	1,917,000	0	0	1,917,000
Total Liabilities	**$1,429,360**	**$1,917,000**	**$262,444**	**$28,538**	**$3,637,342**
Deferred Inflows of Resources					
Unavailable Revenue	3,225,720	0	0	0	3,225,720
Fund Balances					
Nonspendable	0	0	0	2,926,293	2,926,293
Restricted	0	34,198,707	8,483,612	9,737,774	52,410,093
Committed	599,746	0	0	0	599,746
Assigned	1,679,069	0	0	0	1,679,069
Unassigned	17,567,202	0	0	0	17,567,202
Total Fund Balances	**19,846,017**	**34,198,707**	**8,483,612**	**12,654,067**	**75,182,403**
Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Fund Balances					
	$24,501,097	**$36,115,707**	**$8,746,056**	**$12,682,605**	**$82,045,465**

Governmental Funds Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances Year Ended June 30, 2025					
	General	Capital Projects	Town Special Revenue	Nonmajor Gov Funds	Total Gov Funds
Revenues					
Real Estate and Pers. Prop. Taxes, Net of Tax Refunds	$94,022,706	0	0	0	$94,022,706
Tax Liens and Foreclosures	873,734	0	0	0	873,734
Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes	4,937,172	0	0	0	4,937,172
Hotel/Motel Tax	1,099,758	0	0	0	1,099,758
Penalties and Int. on Taxes	479,634	0	0	0	479,634
Payment in Lieu of Taxes	976,951	0	0	0	976,951
Intergovernmental - Teachers Retirement	7,960,507	0	0	0	7,960,507
Intergovernmental	14,077,111	21,811,186	5,011,756	6,954,582	47,854,635
Departmental and Other	2,936,942	0	1,258,285	4,559,532	8,754,759
Contributions & Donations	0	0	119,390	184,151	303,541
Investment Income	2,652,820	0	248,623	1,078,267	3,979,710
Miscellaneous	0	0	1,900,000	0	1,900,000
Total Revenues	130,017,335	21,811,186	8,538,054	12,776,532	173,143,107

Governmental Funds Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances (continued)					
	General	Capital Projects	Town Special Revenue	Nonmajor Gov Funds	Total Gov Funds
Liabilities					
Current					
General Government	3,521,042	0	619,621	4,552,982	8,693,645
Public Safety	15,987,805	0	2,453,654	1,115,251	19,556,710
Education	54,690,953	45,976,766	0	4,041,287	104,709,006
Public Works	11,585,738	2,698,517	1,000,898	3,765,306	19,050,459
Health and Human Serv	824,417	0	147,677	205,184	1,177,278
Culture and Recreation	2,072,022	0	852,266	0	2,924,288
COVID-19	0	0	17,263	0	17,263
Pension Benefits	6,662,109	0	0	0	6,662,109
Pension Benefits	7,960,507	0	0	0	7,960,507
Teachers Retirement					
Property and Liability	554,725	0	0	0	554,725
Insurance					
Employee Benefits	14,548,448	0	0	0	14,548,448
State and County Charges	2,433,963	0	0	0	2,433,963
Debt Service					
Principal	492,792	0	0	3,688,800	4,181,592
Interest	62,924	0	0	1,866,081	1,929,005
Total Expenditures	121,578,445	48,675,283	5,091,379	19,234,891	194,579,998
Excess (Deficiency) Of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures					
	8,438,890	(26,864,097)	3,446,675	(6,458,359)	(21,436,891)
Other Financing Sources (Uses)					
Issuance of bonds	0	59,880,000	0	0	59,880,000
Premium from issuance of Bonds	0	2,620,000	0	0	2,620,000
Transfers In	282,288	0	0	6,359,880	6,642,168
Transfers Out	(6,359,880)	0	(68,500)	(213,788)	(6,642,168)
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(6,077,592)	62,500,000	(68,500)	6,146,092	62,500,000
Net Change in Fund Balances	2,361,298	35,635,903	3,378,175	(312,267)	41,063,109
Fund Balances at Beginning of Year (as Revised)	17,484,719	(1,437,196)	5,105,437	12,966,334	34,119,294
Fund Balances at End of Year	19,846,017	34,198,707	8,483,612	12,654,067	75,182,403

Town of Wakefield Report of Appropriated Funds, Expenditures, and Balances, Fiscal 2025

General Government					
					Disposition of Balance
	Appropriation Fiscal 2025	Expenditure Fiscal 2025	Balance Fiscal 2025	Transfer to Fund Balance	Encumbered Fiscal 2025
Town Council Department					
Personal Services (includes Town Planner)	541,004.00	517,815.50	23,188.50	23,188.50	
Purchase of Services	98,731.00	93,988.56	4,742.44	4,502.44	240
Materials and Supplies	6,00.00	5,509.55	1,090.45	1,090.45	
Sundry Charges	3,800.00	3,339.00	461	461	
Total	650,135.00	620,652.61	29,482.39	29,242.39	240
Accounting Department					
Personal Services	368,856.00	360,931.56	7,924.44	7,924.44	
Purchase of Services	102,351.00	93,247.88	9,103.12	1,103.12	8,000.00
Materials and Supplies	2,960.00	2,959.29	0.71	0.71	
Sundry Charges	210	115	95	95	
Total	474,377.00	457,253.73	17,123.27	9,123.27	8,000.00
Information Technology					
Personal Services	204,238.00	190,256.56	13,981.44	13,981.44	
Purchase of Services	197,625.00	180,766.78	16,858.22	495.98	16,362.24
Materials and Supplies	11,780.00	11,748.25	31.75	31.75	
Sundry Charges	79,610.00	13,941.46	65,668.54	65,668.54	
Total	493,253.00	369,713.05	96,539.95	80,177.71	16,362.24
Capital Outlay	200,000.00	67,051.00	132,949.00	0	132,949.00
Total	693,253.00	463,764.05	229,488.95	80,177.71	149,311.24
Treasurer's Department					
Salary of Treasurer	75,695.00	75,693.13	1.87	1.87	
Personal Services	141,832.00	141,832.44	-0.44	-0.44	
Purchase of Services	4,600.00	4,596.55	3.45	3.45	
Materials and Supplies	2,000.00	1,958.90	41.1	41.1	
Sundry Charges	100	100	0	0	
Tax Titles	13,000.00	12,998.25	1.75	1.75	
Bank Charges	7,500.00	7,500.00	0	0	
Total	244,727.00	244,679.27	47.73	47.73	0
Legal Department					
Personal Services	131,592.00	131,591.46	0.54	0.54	
Purchase of Services	60,000.00	43,176.74	16,823.26	16,823.26	
Materials and Supplies	10,000.00	8,905.51	1,094.09	1,094.09	
Sundry Charges	0	0	0	0	
Sub Total	201,592.00	183,674.11	17,917.89	17,917.89	0
Legal Damages	4,560.00	666.73	3,892.27	3,893.27	
Total	206,152.00	184,340.84	21,811.16	21,811.16	0
Collector's Department					
Salary of Collector	116,509.00	116,508.86	0.14	0.14	
Personal Services	84,593.00	84,035.32	557.68	557.68	
Purchase of Services	51,070.00	49,666.33	1,403.67	238.67	1,165.00
Materials and Supplies	2,950.00	2,517.12	432.88	432.88	
Sundry Charges	140	135	5	5	
Total	255,262.00	252,862.63	2,399.37	1,234.37	1,165.00

	Appropriation Fiscal 2025	Expenditure Fiscal 2025	Balance Fiscal 2025	Transfer to Fund Balance	Encumbered Fiscal 2025
Assessors' Department					
Personal Services	228,922.00	228,921.44	0.56	0.56	
Purchase of Services	33,650.00	29,668.23	3,981.77	2,981.77	1,000.00
Materials and Supplies	1,950.00	1,791.00	159	159	
Sundry Charges	750	750	0	0	
Total	265,272.00	261,130.67	4,141.33	3,141.33	1,000.00
Town Clerk's Department					
Salary of Town Clerk	101,817.00	101,817.00	0	0	
Personal Services	141,448.00	141,397.21	50.79	50.79	
Purchase of Services	26,465.00	26,465.00	0	0	
Materials and Supplies	2,700.00	1,645.31	1,054.69	354.69	700
Sundry Charges	150	0	150	150	
Total	272,580.00	271,324.52	1,255.48	555.48	700
Election / Registration					
Personal Services	17,100.00	15,452.50	1,647.50	1,647.50	
Purchase of Services	31,200.00	28,477.28	2,722.72	1,440.22	1,282.50
Material and Supplies	2,000.00	1,899.94	100.06	100.06	
Total	50,300.00	45,829.72	4,470.28	3,187.78	1,282.50
Election Expense					
Personal Services	33,400.00	32,932.44	467.56	467.56	
Purchase of Services	21,150.00	13,989.08	7,160.92	7,160.92	
Total	54,550.00	46,921.52	7,628.48	7,628.48	0
Finance Committee					
Personal Services	0	0	0	0	
Purchase of Services	2,960.00	1,395.00	1,565.00	1,565.00	
Materials and Supplies	500	500	0	0	
Sundry Charges	3,600.00	3,600.00	0	0	
Total	7,060.00	5,495.00	1,565.00	1,565.00	0
Conservation Commission					
Personal Services	81,478.00	66,447.72	15,030.28	15,030.28	
Purchase of Services	1,885.00	1,836.58	48.42	48.42	
Material and Supplies	1,000.00	482.95	517.05	517.05	
Sundry Charges	805	758	47	47	
Total	85,168.00	69,525.25	15,642.75	15,642.75	0
Less: Wetland Filing Fees	4,500.00	4,500.00	0	0	
Total	80,668.00	65,025.25	15,642.75	15,642.75	0
Planning Board					
Personal Services	4,800.00	4,200.00	600	600	
Purchase of Services	3,725.00	883.11	2,841.89	2,841.89	
Materials and Supplies	2,000.00	84.92	1,915.08	1,915.08	
Sundry Charges	250	0	250	250	
Total	10,775.00	5,168.03	5,606.97	5,606.97	0
Board of Appeals					
Purchase of Services	30,300.00	30,144.40	155.60	155.60	
Total	30,300.00	30,144.40	155.60	155.60	0
Total General Government	3,299,911.00	2,959,092.24	340,818.76	179,120.02	161,698.74

Protection of Persons and Property					
	Appropriation Fiscal 2025	Expenditure Fiscal 2025	Balance Fiscal 2025	Transfer to Fund Balance	Encumbered Fiscal 2025
Police Department					
Personal Services	7,002,099.00	6,977,085.18	25,013.82	25,013.82	
Purchase of Services	330,007.00	309,707.30	20,299.70	19,311.34	988.36
Materials and Supplies	171,800.00	139,887.30	31,912.70	31,912.70	
Sundry Charges	13,000.00	12,930.48	69.52	69.52	
Total	7,516,906.00	7,439,610.26	77,295.74	76,307.38	988.36
Capital Outlay:	170,000.00	168,666.71	1,333.29	1,333.29	
Total	7,686,906.00	7,608,276.97	78,629.03	77,629.03	988.36
Fire Department					
Personal Services	7,795,661.00	7,754,620.20	41,040.80	41,080.80	
Purchase of Services	154,100.00	145,096.15	8,003.85	8,003.85	
Materials and Supplies	165,600.00	162,165.68	3,434.32	3,434.32	
Sundry Charges	3,000.00	3,000.00	0	0	
Total	8,118,361.00	8,065,882.03	52,478.97	52,478.97	
Capital Outlay:	75,000.00	75,000.00	0	0	
	17,000.00	16,740.00	260	260	
	28,000.00	9,470.00	18,530.00	18,530.00	
Total	8,238,361.00	8,167,092.03	71,268.97	71,268.97	0
Fire Alarm / Traffic Signals					
Personal Services	45,011.00	43,910.00	1,101.00	1,101.00	
Purchase of Services	7,500.00	7,499.16	0.84	0.84	
Materials and Supplies	20,000.00	19,999.50	0.5	0.5	
Total	72,511.00	71,408.66	1,102.34	1,102.34	0
Emergency Management					
Personal Services	59,253.00	59,252.21	0.79	0.79	
Purchase of Services	30,000.00	23,078.19	6,921.81	6,921.81	
Materials and Supplies	3,000.00	2,989.50	10.5	10.5	
Total	92,253.00	85,319.90	6,933.10	6,933.10	0
Building Department					
Personal Services	480,082.00	477,129.03	2,952.97	2,952.97	
Purchase of Services	16,350.00	14,786.60	1,563.40	1,563.40	
Materials and Supplies	9,550.00	6,032.55	3,517.45	3,517.45	
Sundry Charges	500	110	390	390	
Total	506,482.00	498,058.18	8,423.82	8,423.82	0
Animal Inspector					
Personal Services	0	0	0	0	
Purchase of Services	39,425.00	39,424.04	0.96	0.96	
Materials and Supplies	400	0	400	400	
Sundry Charges	1,500.00	1,500.00	0	0	
Total	41,325.00	40,924.04	400.96	400.96	0
Parking Clerk					
Personal Services	10,024.00	10,024.00	0	0	
Purchase of Services	550	440	110	110	
Materials and Supplies	350	0	350	350	
Total	10,924.00	10,464.00	460	460	0
Total Protection Persons and Property	16,648,762.00	16,481,543.78	167,218.22	166,229.86	988.36

Human Services					
	Appropriation Fiscal 2025	Expenditure Fiscal 2025	Balance Fiscal 2025	Transfer to Fund Balance	Encumbered Fiscal 2025
Council on Aging					
Personal Services	266,498.00	264,158.97	2,339.03	2,339.03	
Purchase of Services	5,600.00	5,271.19	328.81	328.81	
Materials and Supplies	12,025.00	8,017.55	4,007.45	4,007.45	
Mystic Valley Elder Services	6,275.00	6,275.00	0	0	
Capital Outlay	0	0	0	0	
Total	290,398.00	238,722.71	6,675.29	6,675.29	0
Health Department					
Personal Services	315,735.00	315,732.35	2.65	2.65	
Purchase of Services	137,885.00	75,694.26	62,190.74	5,727.31	56,463.43
Materials and Supplies	2,375.00	847.46	1,527.54	1,513.16	14.38
Sundry Charges	1,250.00	699.27	550.73	250.73	300
EMARC	16,000.00	12,058.77	3,941.23	3,941.23	
Mental Outpatient Clinic	6,400.00	4,696.00	1,704.00	1,704.00	
E. Middlesex Mosquito	30,500.00	23,561.25	6,938.75	0	6,938.75
Total	510,145.00	433,289.36	76,855.64	13,139.08	63,716.56
Recreation					
Personal Services	130,814.00	130,812.11	1.89	1.89	
Total	130,814.00	130,812.11	1.89	1.89	0
Veterans' Department					
Personal Services	23,841.00	23,840.10	0.9	0.9	
Recipients	110,000.00	47,482.62	62,517.38	62,517.38	
Purchase of Services	60,433.00	56,597.23	3,835.77	3,835.77	
Materials and Supplies	700	522.15	177.85	128.17	49.68
Memorial Day	2,500.00	325	2,175.00	2,175.00	
Veterans Day	1,500.00	295	1,205.00	1,205.00	
Total	198,974.00	129,062.10	69,911.90	69,862.22	49.68
Total Human Services	1,130,331.00	976,886.28	153,444.72	89,678.49	63,766.24
Public Works Department					
Personal Services					
Personal Services Breakdown:	4,658,174.00	4,533,396.65	14,038.35	14,038.35	
Administration	241,846.00	241,846.00	0	0	
Engineering	368,294.00	362,228.69	6,065.31	6,065.31	
Fleet Maintenance	408,019.00	405,973.47	2,045.53	2,045.53	
Buildings	970,536.00	970,536.00	0	0	
Forestry and Parks	1,046,740.00	1,044,447.29	2,292.71	2,292.71	
Cemetery	347,509.00	341,555.56	5,953.44	5,953.44	
Highway	1,275,230.00	1,277,548.64	-2,318.64	-2,318.64	
Total	4,658,174.00	4,644,135.65	14,038.35	14,038.35	0
Less					
Perpetual Care Income	46,738.00	46,738.00	0		
Park Trust Funds Avail.	1	1	0		
To Be Appropriated From Sale of Lots Funds	64,000.00	64,000.00	0		
Total	4,547,435.00	4,533,396.65	14,038.35	14,038.35	0
Purchase of Services					
Purchased Service Breakdown:	1,859,999.00	1,733,580.16	126,418.84	4,128.39	
Administration	31,600.00	31,600.00	0	0	

Public Works Department					
	Appropriation Fiscal 2025	Expenditure Fiscal 2025	Balance Fiscal 2025	Transfer to Fund Balance	Encumbered Fiscal 2025
Engineering	224,950.00	224,950.00	0	0	
Fleet Maintenance	111,700.00	91,363.63	20,336.37	1,905.16	18,431.21
Buildings	903,749.00	878,966.61	24,782.39	0.99	24,781.40
Forestry and Parks	214,750.00	201,306.10	13,443.90	-840	14,283.90
Cemetery	20,700.00	17,637.76	3,062.24	3,062.24	
Highway	352,550.00	287,756.06	64,793.94	0	64,793.94
Total	1,859,999.00	1,733,580.16	125,418.84	4,128.39	122,290.45
Materials and Supplies					
Material & Supplies Breakdown:	736,650.00	644,086.21	92,563.79	30,240.44	
Administration	8,600.00	5,596.08	3,003.92	2,503.92	500
Engineering	9,800.00	7,723.14	2,076.86	2,076.86	
Fleet Maintenance	279,600.00	248,846.46	30,753.54	6,310.55	24,442.99
Buildings	126,100.00	114,388.76	11,711.24	11,711.24	
Forestry and Parks	136,850.00	97,461.17	39,388.83	2,008.47	37,380.36
Cemetery	24,500.00	18,870.60	5,629.40	5,629.40	
Highway	151,200.00	151,200.00	0	0	
Total	736,650.00	644,086.21	92,563.79	30,240.44	62,323.35
Sundry Charges					
Sundry Charges Breakdown:	4,125.00	3,880.43	244.57	244.57	0
Administration	1,000.00	755.43	244.57	244.57	
Engineering	1,800.00	1,800.00	0	0	
Fleet Maintenance	325	325	0	0	
Buildings	250	250	0	0	
Forestry and Parks	300	300	0	0	
Cemetery	200	200	0	0	
Highway	250	250	0	0	
Total	4,125.00	3,880.43	244.57	244.57	0
Capital Outlay					
Administration	55,000.00	55,000.00	0	0	
Engineering	50,000.00	10,264.92	39,735.08	0	39,735.08
Fleet Maintenance	857,516.00	836,589.46	20,926.55	2,864.70	18,061.85
Buildings	306,000.00	191,000.00	115,000.00	0	115,000.00
Forestry and Parks	172,000.00	155,795.00	16,205.00	100	16,105.00
Cemetery	0	0	0	0	
Highway	0	0	0	0	
Total	1,440,516.00	1,248,649.37	191,866.63	2,964.70	188,901.93
Total Public Works	8,588,725.00	8,163,592.82	425,132.18	51,616.45	373,515.73
Snow and Ice:	850,000.00	849,999.95	0.05	0.05	0
Public Works Enterprise					
Water Division					
Personal Services	1,551,047.00	1,343,200.20	207,846.80	207,846.80	
Purchase of Services	504,675.00	456,070.59	48,604.41	8,604.41	40,000.00
Materials and Supplies	247,500.00	226,500.00	21,000.00	21,000.00	
Sundry Charges	1,430.00	2,302.00	-872	-872	
Professional Medical Services	1,900.00	1,900.00	0	0	
Contributory Retirement Pensions	281,486.00	281,486.00	0	0	
Group Insurance	505,336.00	490,101.76	15,234.24	15,234.24	
Workers' Compensation Ins	9,220.00	9,220.00	0	0	
General Insurance	28,000.00	28,000.00	0	0	
MWRA Water Assessment	3,321,347.00	3,311,592.52	9,754.48	9,754.48	
Admin Expense (P.S.)	82,636.00	82,636.00	0	0	
Capital Outlay	254,000.00	142,148.27	111,851.73	820.17	111,031.63
Maturing Debt	919,762.00	918,890.00	872	872	
Medicare	22,350.00	22,350.00	0	0	
Total	7,730,689.00	7,316,397.34	414,291.66	263,260.03	151,031.63

	Appropriation Fiscal 2025	Expenditure Fiscal 2025	Balance Fiscal 2025	Transfer to Fund Balance	Encumbered Fiscal 2025
Sewer Division					
Personal Services	1,127,145.00	1,078,834.49	48,310.51	48,310.51	
Purchase of Services	476,611.00	303,944.63	172,666.37	58,166.37	114,500.00
Materials and Supplies	87,100.00	58,914.74	28,185.26	24,692.06	3,493.20
Sundry Charges	1,200.00	80	1,120.00	1,120.00	
MWRA Sewer Assessment	6,837,301.00	6,791,838.00	45,463.00	45,462.60	0.4
Workers' Compensation	5,880.00	5,880.00	0	0	
General Insurance	16,500.00	16,500.00	0	0	
Professional Medical Services	1,900.00	1,900.00	0	0	
Contributory Retirement Pensions	227,059.00	227,059.00	0	0	
Group Insurance	328,242.00	318,811.28	9,430.72	9,430.72	
Admin Expense (P.S.)	82,636.00	82,636.00	0	0	
Capital Outlay	390,000.00	289,058.99	100,941.01	941.01	100,000.00
Maturing Debt	166,414.00	166,414.00	0	0	
Medicare	16,191.00	16,191.00	0	0	
Total	9,764,179.00	9,358,062.13	406,116.87	188,123.27	217,993.60
Education					
School Department					
Personal Services	44,082,014.00	43,399,309.55	682,704.45	682,704.45	0
Purchase of Services	6,302,711.00	6,823,406.11	-520,695.11	-658,056.11	137,361.00
Materials and Supplies	2,016,674.00	1,959,250.83	57,423.17	2,308.25	55,114.92
Sundry Charges	33,330.00	30,894.35	2,405.65	2,405.65	0
School Capital	121,300.00	117,006.41	4,293.59	1,144.59	3,149.00
Total	52,555,999.00	52,329,867.25	226,131.75	30,506.83	195,624.92
Less: Offset Receipts Bus Fees	115,000.00	115,000.00	0	0	0
Budget Reductions SC	0	0	0	0	0
Total Tax Levy	52,440,999.00	52,214,867.25	226,131.75	30,506.83	195,624.92
Library Department					
Person Services	1,209,298.00	1,478,998.31	30,299.69	30,299.69	
Purchase of Services	279,139.00	279,139.00	0	0	
Materials and Supplies	234,900.00	234,900.00	0	0	
Total	2,023,337.00	1,993,037.31	30,299.69	30,299.69	0
Less: Library Trust Fund Income	52,070.00	52,070.00	0	0	0
Total	1,971,267.00	1,940,967.31	30,299.69	30,299.69	0
Capital Outlay	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1,971,267.00	1,940,967.31	30,299.69	30,299.69	0
NE Met. Reg. Voc.	2,596,485.00	2,596,160.00	325	325	0
Total Education	57,008,751.00	56,751,944.56	256,756.44	61,131.52	195,624.92
Unclassified					
Street Lights	188,131.00	188,131.00	0	0	0
Historical Commission	2,000.00	1,238.27	761.73	761.73	0
General Insurance	554,925.00	554,725.00	200	200	0
Medicare	1,040,195.00	1,040,190.87	4.13	4.13	0
Unemployment Insurance	75,000.00	38,552.94	36,447.06	36,447.06	0
Reserve Fund	400,000.00	253,300.00	146,700.00	146,700.00	0
Cable TV Public Access Enterprise	559,216.00	557,110.26	2,105.74	0	2,105.74
Total Unclassified	2,819,467.00	2,633,248.34	186,218.66	184,122.92	2,105.74
Benefits & Administration					
Personal Services	274,066.00	273,850.02	215.98	215.98	
Professional Medical	11,500.00	9,252.05	2,247.95	2,247.95	
Workers' Compensation	4,571,100.00	456,036.36	1,073.64	1,073.64	
Retirement System					
Pension Accumulation Fund	6,756,505.00	6,662,109.40	94,395.60	94,395.60	
Non-Contrib Pension Fund	0	0	0	0	

	Appropriation Fiscal 2025	Expenditure Fiscal 2025	Balance Fiscal 2025	Transfer to Fund Balance	Encumbered Fiscal 2025
Assessments, Non-Contributory	0	0	0	0	
Veterans Pension Fund					
Total Benefits and Admin.	7,499,181.00	7,401,247.83	97,933.17	97,933.17	0
Contributory Group Health and Life Insurance					
Town & School Appropriation	13,181,028.00	12,755,378.68	425,649.36	400,649.36	25,000.00
Total Group Insurance	13,181,028.00	12,755,378.64	425,649.36	400,649.36	25,000.00

REPORT OF THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

Treasurer's Office Cash Management and Interest Earnings

The Treasurer's Office is pleased to report that calendar year 2025 produced a record level of interest and dividend revenue in the Town's history.

Total Interest and Dividend Earnings: $5,353,492.43

This result reflects a more active and strategic approach to the management of municipal cash balances. While a favorable interest-rate environment contributed to the opportunity for increased earnings, the primary driver was a revised cash management strategy implemented by the Treasurer's Office to more effectively deploy taxpayer dollars while maintaining the highest standards of safety and liquidity.

During 2025, the Town also received proceeds from the issuance of bonds for the new high school project. A significant portion of these project funds was received during the latter part of the year and temporarily increased the balances available for short-term deposit. These proceeds continue to be held and drawn down as project expenditures occur, allowing the Treasurer's Office to safely deploy those funds in short-term accounts and generate additional revenue for the Town.

Through active monitoring of market conditions, strategic allocation of funds, and ongoing negotiations with financial institutions, the Treasurer's Office secured highly competitive interest rates while maintaining full liquidity and protection of municipal funds. In several instances, the office successfully negotiated enhanced deposit rates beyond standard institutional offerings, further increasing the return generated on Town funds. Funds were regularly reviewed and moved from lower-yield accounts to higher-yield opportunities as they became available, ensuring that taxpayer dollars were consistently deployed in the most productive and secure accounts available to the Town.

These efforts generated $4,328,833.31 in interest from the Town's operating bank accounts alone, reflecting the significant impact of proactive cash management and competitive rate negotiation.

Additional revenue included $988,710.43 in earnings from OPEB funds, $35,629.66 in earnings from Town trust funds, and $319.03 from Master Trust accounts, bringing total interest and dividend revenue for the year to $5,353,492.43.

Importantly, these improved returns were achieved without increasing risk to municipal funds. Safety, liquidity, and full compliance with all statutory security and collateralization requirements remained the highest priorities throughout the year.

The Treasurer's Office will continue to actively manage the Town's cash balances with a focus on security, liquidity, and maximizing returns, ensuring that taxpayer dollars remain protected while generating the greatest possible benefit for the Town.

The Trust Funds as of December 31, 2025, in the hands of the Treasurer, are as follows:

Trust Funds	
Old cemetery trust funds	$1,254,581.95
Library trust funds	$143,430.00
Park trust funds	$21,472.00
School trust funds	$9,000.00
Various trust funds	$28,030.00

During the fiscal year 7/01/2026 to 6/30/2027, the following loans will fall due:

	Principal	**Interest**
MWRA Water Bond	$37,625.00	$0.00
MWRA Sewer Bond	$13,160.25	$0.00
MWPAT Bond	$2,317.00	$0.00
Galvin Middle School Feasibility Study	$20,000.00	$862.50
Athletic Fields	$410,000.00	$18,131.25
Athletic Fields	$47,424,.00	$6,237.30
Galvin Middle School	$752,576.00	$641,862.70
Galvin Middle School	$55,000.00	$50,391.26
Galvin Middle School	$610,000.00	$128,481.25
Galvin Middle School	$0.00	$120,856.25
Fire Truck	$90,000.00	$2,250.00
Fire Ladder	$50,000.00	$16,416.26
Walton School	$155,000.00	$179,862.50
Public Drainage System	$20,000.00	$25,723.76
MWRA Water	$154,875.00	$0.00
MWRA Sewer	$32,000.00	$0.00
Fire Pumper Truck	$70,000.00	$14,350.00
Roads Phase 1	$190,000.00	$43,150.00
Drainage	$35,000.00	$18,025.00
New Salem Drainage	$20,000.00	$10,300.00
Public Safety Design	$80,000.00	$41,200.00
Water Mains	$85,000.00	$43,662.50
MWRA Sewer	$18,839.75	$0.00

	Principal	Interest
Public Works Repair	$25,000.00	$9,625.00
Roads Phase 2	$220,000.00	$40,700.00
Greenwood School Roof	$25,000.00	$9,625.00
Water Mains	$15,000.00	$4,175.00
Public Safety (I)	$305,000.00	$296,375.00
Public Safety (II)	$75,000.00	$71,325.00
Drainage	$45,000.00	$34,875.00
Harts Hill Water Tank	$95,000.00	$113,825.00
Memorial High School I	$340,000.00	$807,550.00
Memorial High School II	$1,050,000.00	$2,625,900.00
Roadway Improvements	$250,000.00	$96,000.00
Roads Phase 5	$234,500.00	$163,089.17
MWRA Water	$200,000.00	$0.00
Memorial High School	$52,200.00	$6,702,953.22
Memorial High School Parking Lot	$114,300.00	$365,962.61
Water Mains	$184,000.00	$246,203.33
MWRA Sewer	$32,750.00	$0.00
MWRA Water single purpose	$135,600.00	$0.00
MWRA Sewer	$32,677.50	$0.00

LIBRARY FORM OF BEQUEST

I hereby give and bequeath to the Trustees of the Lucius Beebe Memorial Library, Wakefield, MA, the sum of $_____ dollars to have and to hold, to be used for the unrestricted purposes of the said library.